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Damning Report of OPD Despite the city's claims of reform, the Frazer Report details the Oakland police department's culture of impunity and failure to change **pg. 11**

He's a Legend Wrestling promoter, rockabilly singer, horror-movie archivist, and porn director Johnny Legend shacks up in Alameda **pg. 17**

OUSD Looks to Revamp School Lunch Program Plus the Phat Beets collective's new North Oakland farmers' market. **pg. 29**

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Music Editor/Staff Writer Rachel Swan
Staff Writer/Web Editor Ellen Cushing
Arts Editor/Page Designer Nate Seltenrich
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Contributors J. Douglas Allen-Taylor, Claudia Bauer, Darwin BondGraham, David Downs, Chris Duffey, Kathleen Finn, Paul Gackle, John Geluardi, Lee Hildebrand, Obi Kaufmann, Mark Keizerman, Kibby Kleiman, Stephen Loewinsohn, Alison Peters, M.E. Williams, Anneli Rufus, Steven Tavares, Jean Tepperman, Luke Tsai, Kelly Vance, Ali Winston

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Circulation
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LETTERS

"Cult" Is a Four-Letter Word

The word "cult" is very secondarily derogatory and gets thrown around a lot where it shouldn't. It's applied to many small spiritual or religious organizations, just because they're small and not mainstream and someone got offended about something. Unless the organization is stockpiling weapons, or there are unethical moral or financial practices going on, it should be free to serve and help people. There is no such thing as brainwashing. Mentally sound adults can make their own decisions. It's not just religious organizations that don't pay taxes, it's all nonprofits.

Elizabeth Peltes, Oakland

On Bain and Big Government

The author in this treatise failed to mention another type of financing — the type used in taking OPM (other people's money) to finance a company in the hope that its performance can be turned around and profits achieved. The author failed to mention the Obama government's loans to favored companies like solar panel producer Solyndra (almost half a billion taxpayer-provided dollars), and other so-called "green" ventures. Unlike with Bain-type private-sector financing, not one of the taxpayers whose money was involved in such "Obama" loans or financing had the opportunity to make a choice in those actions. They were dragged in as a function of a government decision — with no pre-disclosure of information and no recourse for its failure.

As to the author's lofty aspiration that investors should be held accountable for the impacts upon employees and others harmed when such plans go awry, one only can look to the more than one thousand employees of Solyndra who hit the street with nothing but their cardboard boxes when that company went under. Where was the "social conscience" of Obama-type financing in that? Where was Obama's personal responsibility? The author says that "when investments are made that kill jobs and communities, it would not be that hard to set up a system to have those who are responsible to pay for needed unemployment assistance, health care, real job training, and to compensate the communities for lost tax revenues. All involved should personally have to pay for this: from the private-equity experts to the pension fund administrators who hire them and the trustees who approve the job-killing investments. Maybe then all these folks would admit the downstream effects of their actions and focus on investments that create good jobs and build healthy communities." So is it now the responsibility of the taxpayers who funded Obama's investments to additionally fund this? Perhaps it should be Obama's (and his staff's) personal responsibility to fund such social ambitions from their own pockets.

In summary, the author described here a "herd" of financing elephants — naming the Bain Capital-type animal as the worst elephant in the herd — while ignoring a huge elephant in the room and the absolute worst elephant of all, the government animal that gives its taxpayer investors no choice at all and then leaves the scene of its failures with no responsibility whatsoever for the human toll and other results of its actions. Don't be hoodwinked by this magician-like vanishing act on the part of the author. It is politically motivated to deceive.

Wilbur Thompson, Walnut Creek

Trio Garufa in Defense of Tango

My name is Guillermo Garcia and I am the guitarist of Trio Garufa. I am originally from Argentina and am also a tango dance instructor in San Francisco. While I appreciate the exposure given to our band and our new album in Rachel Swan's article, there are numerous factual errors that give a completely false representation of tango.

Far from "failing to modernize," tango music and dance are among the genres that have evolved most over the last century. A quick consultation of Wikipedia is a good start for the responsible journalist. The Argentine tango scene is booming in the world right now, as can be easily verified with a web search with keywords "tango in" followed by your favorite city's name. Websites such as SFLovesTango.com or TangoMango.com show the myriad of Argentine tango activities in the Bay Area.

I am surprised to see the *Express* endorse Rachel Swan's discriminatory judgments on our Bay Area tango dance scene as one that is "middle-aged," "flirts with obsolescence," needs "new blood," and risks "wilting." Moreover, after seeing a few dance venues, the informed journalist would have realized that people of all ages and races dance tango.

Swan seems to believe traditional implies "anachronistic," and is thus deprived of "sex appeal." She might acquire a less superficial perspective after reading Igor Stravinsky's definition of the word "tradition" in *Poetics of Music*: "A real tradition is not the relic of a past that is irretrievably gone; it is a living force that animates and informs the present."

The "electro-tango" fusion style did not exist yet in the Eighties, but started twenty years later. The huge current tango revival — to which Rachel Swan's article is oblivious — did start in the Eighties thanks to the successful Broadway show *Tango Argentino*, followed by *Forever Tango*. Improvisation is actually the very essence of social tango dance.

Despite all the flaws in this article, I am still thankful to the author and the *Express* for publishing it, although I wish the reader could have enjoyed an actual review of the music in our new album.

Guillermo Garcia, Trio Garufa

Not Dead Yet

I've been involved in tango for the last seven years, and I don't see the local scene as wilting at all. On the contrary, we are attracting some of the best performers, teachers, and personalities in the world. At the same time, several of the local instructors, musicians, and dancers now have worldwide reputations.

It is true that the options for live tango music are not great, and many (most?) dancers prefer golden-age recordings to contemporary music — but that is true everywhere, in my opinion. I hope that Ms. Swan will continue to cover Trio Garufa and the local tango scene in general — it really is a gem of Bay Area culture.

Benjamin Drotin, Alameda

The Douchebag Dialectic

I'm unclear as to how wearing a suit qualifies someone as a douchebag. There are obviously plenty of douchebags in the world who wear the black T-shirt/jeans ensemble or who don the treasures found at Buffalo Exchange or the back of their Aunt Mildred's closet. Perhaps Ellen Cushing was trying to assure past patrons of Mama Buzz that the new operators are not in fact douchebags and that the spot is still hip. Maybe she thinks John Mardikian really is a douchebag but nonetheless needed to write something nice since the cafe was hosting a launch party for the *Express'* new clothing line.

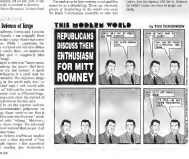
While I was happy to see that Ms. Cushing momentarily got over her dysfunctional obsession with people's clothes and where that places them on "The Douchebag Index" long enough to actually describe the much-needed improvements to the facility and how it maintains much of the original Mama Buzz aesthetic, I was very put off by the opening of her review and her snap judgment of Mr. Mardikian. You do realize that a large swath of people in the Bay Area read this publication and its reviews, right? It's not just artists and idealists who have finished reading *Slingshot*: it's also people who wear suits on occasion or for work.

Regardless, Ms. Cushing went about reviewing the new and improved establishment in the wrong way and sadly revealed her own stereotypes about people who wear suits. Her article did remind me, however, to remain vigilant against people who can't see past clothing and are quick to judge others based on what they're wearing — something I thought I didn't have to do anymore after high school.

M. James, Oakland

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.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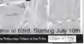

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SEVEN DAYS

IT'S TIME TO CLOSE THE AMERICAN INDIAN CHARTER SCHOOLS

Plus: Mayor Quan's 100 Blocks plan should have been a 1,300 blocks plan

By Robert Gammon

For the past decade, **Ben Chavis** and his American Indian Public Charter Schools in Oakland have gotten away with egregious conduct that would be considered grossly unacceptable for any other school — because their students have high test scores. First, there was the revelation that Chavis routinely abused his students verbally, humiliating them in front of their classmates to force them to score higher on tests or quit the school altogether. Then came the news that Chavis had hurled racist and sexist comments at others in front of students, and that his schools had stopped serving American Indian children.

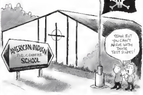
But that's not all. Earlier this year a draft report by state auditors uncovered evidence that Chavis, a former principal of one of the schools who now assumes a somewhat ambiguous leadership role at all three, had engaged in fraud and was illegally pocketing taxpayer funds. Then last week, the *Express* reported that one of the schools' eye-popping test scores appear to be the product not of academic excellence. Instead, there's evidence that the school routinely cherry-picks top students from local elementary schools in violation of district regulations. At minimum, Chavis' schools appear to be nothing more than a rigged system in which mostly high-scoring students apply to get in, are accepted, and then continue to score well on tests.

Then, the state's final audit came out late last week and revealed some truly disturbing allegations, including $350,000 in improper payments to Chavis' wife, $355,000 to Chavis for a summer-school program that violated state law, and $348,000 to companies Chavis owns that did unauthorized construction projects.

Alameda County schools Superintendent **Sheila Jordan** requested the audit after receiving complaints of financial impropriety from former school employees by Chavis and his wife. Jordan has turned the final audit results over to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for possible criminal prosecution.

Although the final audit is damning, the Oakland school board has known about Chavis' misconduct for years and yet has repeatedly voted to renew and extend his charter school licenses. In April, after the draft audit report came out and Oakland schools Superintendent **Tony Smith** recommended strongly that the board deny the charter renewal request for American Indian Public Charter School II, a majority of school board members — **Noel Gallo**, **Alice Spearman**, **Chris Dobbins**, and **Jumoke Hinton Hodge** — voted to renew it. Gallo and Spearman, longtime supporters of the school, led the charge on its behalf, touting the same justification that they have used for years: outstanding test scores.

In other words, for Gallo, Spearman, Dobbins, and Hinton Hodge, it apparently doesn't matter whether a school leader verbally abuses kids, hurls racial and sexist epithets, and engages in fraud as long as his schools do exceptionally well on state tests. Indeed, the entire story of Chavis and American Indian Public Charter schools represents the prime example of our society's extreme overemphasis on standardized testing — that high test scores trump everything else, including honesty, student dignity, and teaching kids that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YEAH BUT YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH THOSE TEST SCORES!

bigotry is wrong.

They're not. And it's way past time for Gallo, Spearman, Dobbins, and Hinton Hodge to recognize that fact and do what's right: revoke American Indian Public Charter schools' licenses.

The 1,300 Blocks Plan

Oakland Mayor **Jean Quan**'s so-called 100 Blocks crime plan deserved skepticism from the start. The idea that redeploying Oakland police to focus on one hundred of the most violent blocks in the city in order to reduce crime overall may have sounded appealing to the mayor, but it was never backed up by solid research. In fact, neither the mayor nor the OPD has been able to point to another city that has implemented such a plan successfully. Moreover, last week the **Urban Strategies Council**, a longtime nonprofit that has focused for years on crime and its root problems in Oakland, found even more flaws in the 100 Blocks plan.

Since the mayor introduced the plan last October, she and other city officials have justified it by contending that "90 percent" of the city's homicides and shootings occur in the one hundred blocks they are targeting. But the Urban Strategies Council's study showed conclusively that this claim is inaccurate. The group analyzed homicides and shootings in Oakland from 2007 to 2011 and found that only 17 percent of the city's homicides and shootings occurred in the one hundred blocks that experienced the most of these crimes.

Moreover, the study found that the city would have to target more than 1,300 blocks in order to combat the 90 percent of homicides and shootings that occur each year in Oakland. In other words, the mayor's 100 Blocks plan should have been the 1,300 Blocks plan.

The mayor's office defended its plan, saying it and police used different data — from 2009 and 2010 — than Urban Strategies Council did. But looking at the city's crime reports over the past half-decade, the mayor's argument about using different data doesn't stand up to scrutiny. Indeed, it's impossible to find one hundred blocks in Oakland that account for 90 percent of the city's annual killings and shootings, no matter what years you analyze. "It's just not possible," said **Steve Spiker**, Urban Strategies Council's director of research and technology.

Spiker is right, and in hindsight, it should have been obvious. There are 6,560 Census blocks in Oakland, and the idea that 90 percent of the homicides and shootings are occurring in just 100 — or 1.5 percent — of them defies basic logic. If that were true, then those one hundred blocks would be among the most violent places on Earth.

They're not, of course, but that's not to say that violent crime isn't concentrated in certain parts of the city, because it is. The Urban Strategies Council report proves it definitively. The report shows that 90 percent of Oakland's killings and shootings occur in just one fifth, or 20 percent, of all the blocks in the city (1,303 blocks out of 6,560 is 19.9 percent). In other words, the report verified what Oaklanders have known for years — that most of Oakland, four-fifths of the city, in fact, is relatively safe, while one fifth of it is very violent. As such, the media portrayal of Oakland as being overrun by violent crime is patently false.

Nonetheless, we're skeptical as to whether Quan's plan would work even if she targeted 1,300 blocks rather than 100. The problem with hotspot policing — focusing cops on certain areas in a security guard-like approach — is that it tends to push crime to other parts of a community. Criminals, after all, are not going to be dissuaded from committing crimes if they see cops in one neighborhood and know that they can commit crimes in other neighborhoods without worry of being caught.

Even the US Department of Justice recognizes that hotspot policing doesn't work. A DOJ analysis of a hotspot-policing program in Jacksonville, Florida from 2003 to 2008 concluded that it had no effect on overall crime there.

Unfortunately, Oakland has had a longstanding infatuation with hotspot policing that predates Quan. Oakland police under mayors **Ron Dellums** and **Jerry Brown** practiced such tactics for years without success. And yet, for some reason, city leaders keep going back to it, somehow thinking that it will eventually lower crime in Oakland's most violent neighborhoods.

At the same time, the city has ignored what does work — old-fashioned policing: investigating crimes, solving them, building good cases, arresting the perpetrators, and winning convictions. We have long advocated for such tactics, but Oakland police and city leaders have never fully embraced them — perhaps because they require hard work and determination.

THERE ARE 6,560 CENSUS BLOCKS IN OAKLAND, AND THE IDEA THAT 90 PERCENT OF THE HOMICIDES AND SHOOTINGS ARE OCCURRING IN JUST 100 — OR 1.5 PERCENT — OF THEM DEFIES BASIC LOGIC.

And yet there's recent evidence to show that they're effective. A months-long undercover operation involving federal agents and local law enforcement known as Project Gideon III targeted some of Oakland's most violent criminals this year, and investigators worked diligently to apprehend them and put them behind bars. Even Oakland Police Chief **Howard Jordan** now contends that Project Gideon III has had a significant impact on crime in the city. In a press release this week, Jordan noted that violent crimes were down 14 percent in May compared to April.

As such, perhaps it's time for the mayor, the police department, and city leaders to finally shelve hotspot policing and ideas like the 100 Blocks plan, and instead recognize that one of the most effective ways to reduce violent crime is to have cops to investigate it and solve it. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

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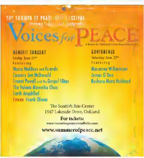

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THE GANJA SHIP JOLLY ROGER

What's the difference between San Jose's sad HempCon and the city's awesome Yerba Buena Collective Amber Pearl? Intention.

By David Downs

This week's cover story looks at how three years of mainstream marijuana lab testing has changed cannabis culture, illustrating the schism between testing entries in the *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup on June 23-24 and testing medicinal marijuana to save lives.

Critics of California's Prop. 215 never tire of questioning how pot can be medical if *High Times* is having a contest for it. The reality, of course, is that weed is both: life-saving medicine for some seriously ill individuals and also the second most popular mind-altering substance on the planet behind alcohol.

There was no better place to investigate this duality than in San Jose, which hosted the controversial HempCon at the San Jose Convention Center June 15-17, and allows the ongoing operation of the Yerba Buena Collective Amber Pearl, a pot club that looks like a pirate ship. The difference between the two is intention.

HempCon was your typical sad, greedy weed-culture swap meet, offering plenty of ammo for medical marijuana's critics. Meanwhile the Yerba Buena Collective Amber Pearl was actually pretty unique and imaginative, with all-star service more sincere and professional than one would get at a Walgreens pharmacy.

Let's start with HempCon, promoted and sponsored by Mega Productions of Los Angeles. Mega is known for holding annual tattoo expos and debaucherous beer festivals, and all the clichés were present. The official poster featured a busty, smiling, tattooed brunette in a bikini superimposed over a pot leaf and a red cross. "Learn how to get into the medical marijuana business," it advertised.

On Saturday in downtown San Jose, under a baking midday sun, vinyl-wrapped Scions advertised ThePotDoc.com and "Sacramento 420 Evaluations." The kind of people attracted to such advertising paid $20 to get into a big circus tent in the convention center parking lot.

Inside the dark, stuffy big top, about eighty people were waiting for more than an hour to see a doctor, pay $60, and get a recommendation for medical marijuana. As medical pot's critics note, many in the line looked young and healthy.

Beyond the recommendation mill, it was typical fare: bongs, vaporizers, pro-weed T-shirts, and hemp products. HempCon's food and drink offerings made a 7-Eleven look like the French Laundry.

Those with a doctor's note for pot were also allowed into a separate back area of HempCon, where about a dozen or so dispensaries lured new members to sign up with promises of free joints, edibles, grams of weed, and "bud pong" carnival games. A huge purple truck wrapped in vinyl advertised "Granny Purple." The only thing missing was a Venice Beach boardwalk clown with a big arrow sign reading "Fuck the Feds, Get High Here." It's easy to see why the battleground city of San Jose is divided on whether it should regulate the medical marijuana industry or end it.

Several miles away is an unlikely role model — the Yerba Buena Collective Amber Pearl, part of a chain of eight Yerba Buena dispensaries in San Jose. First of all, Amber Pearl blends into the modern business parks past HP Pavilion in an out-of-the-way industrial part of the city.

Dark mirrored windows only reveal an "open" sign and Yerba Buena's consistent branding, the medical Rod of Asclepius. A doorman greeted us with a friendly hello and welcomed us into the cool, dark, air-conditioned dispensary lobby, famous for its 15-foot-tall, 35-foot-long pirate ship installation.

Made out of wood and foam, painted in brown and gold, bedecked with skulls and pirate booty, it is genuinely awesome. Yerba Buena Collective Amber Pearl used to be an aquarium store and the pirate ship was part of its draw. When it became a dispensary, the owners adapted the motif, decking out the surrounding walls and ceiling in fake rock material so the pirate ship looked trapped in a cave, like in the film *The Goonies*.

Rihanna played on the radio overhead as we filled out membership forms. Friendly staff asked us where we were from and what brought us to Amber Pearl, and verified our age and recommendation. We received a thick, pocket-size "passport" explaining dispensary rules, medical marijuana facts, methods of consumption, state law, and local ordinances. We also got a personal guided tour of the club, which is further decked out like a cave.

"Theo" walked us through Amber Pearl's cooler and freezer full of edibles, medicated cannabis sodas, and even hot sauces. He explained cannabinoid dosage and effects better than a Kaiser practitioner. We were given a full tour of Amber Pearl's weed supplies, with eighth-ounces ranging from $35 to $60 and a top shelf of world class cuts like Gooey Wreck, Dutch Crunch, and XJ 13.

The Amber Pearl crew was knowledgeable without being intimidating, and friendly without being unprofessional. Staff never made you feel rushed or stupid, and seemed to enjoy each other's company as well. They took credit and debit cards without a fee, and their huge loyalty rewards include free ounces, which can run $460 retail.

Like any type of drug, the difference between medical and non-medical use comes down to intention. At HempCon, it was easy to see why critics are against medical marijuana. Mega Productions just doesn't seem to care. By contrast, Yerba Buena staff cared a thousand times higher.

We'd shop at a Walgreens shaped like the Great Sphinx of Giza as long as it was as clean, cool, and professionally run as this superb Jolly Roger of the South Bay. ●

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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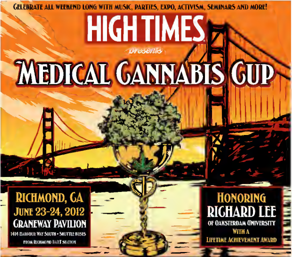

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The 66-acre Selby Slag Site hugs the East Bay shoreline near the mouth of the Carquinez Strait.

ECO WATCH

CONTAINING A TOXIC MESS

The Selby Slag Site has been leaching heavy metals into the bay for a century and though it may never be cleaned up it should be contained within five years.

By Nate Seltenrich

For a full century between 1872 and 1972 a metal smelting and refining plant operated on the East Bay shore just north of Rodeo. Suffice to say it's the sort of thing that wouldn't fly nowadays. The plant released huge quantities of chemicals and metals into the environment and adjacent San Pablo Bay and today, decades after it was shut down and removed, its toxic legacy on the land continues. An attempt in the early 1990s to contain the toxic heap, known as the Selby Slag Site, was only partially effective, and plans are underway to end its perennial polluting for good.

Smelting is the process of extracting metals — in this case, mostly lead, gold, silver, and copper — from ore through the application of heat and a chemical agent like carbon monoxide. The byproduct is a material called slag, a mixture of undesirable metal compounds that, after cooling, takes on a cement-like consistency. Over the course of one hundred years the smelting plant churned out a lot of slag. An astonishing 2.3 million cubic yards of it remains onsite, still resting where it was originally dumped along the shoreline and directly into the bay.

Today the property — designated a State Superfund site — isn't much to look at. As part of a series of interim measures performed in 1990 and 1991, the 66-acre property in view of the Carquinez Bridge was graded and capped with asphalt, giving it the appearance of an expansive parking lot extending like a shelf from the natural contours of the shoreline. But beneath this fairly innocuous facade lies a foundation of slag, laced with heavy metals, up to forty feet deep. Beyond the asphalt cap, slag deposits extend another two hundred feet into the bay, entirely uncontained.

Heavy metals are termed because of their relatively high densities and their toxicity in low concentrations can be extremely harmful to humans as well as to aquatic life. They can disrupt ecosystems and bioaccumulate in food chains. Antimony, used in flame retardants and batteries, is a suspected carcinogen that produces effects similar to lead poisoning. In heavy doses, it can cause death in humans. Cadmium has a range of effects on living organisms and has been shown to cause cancer in both humans and animals. Arsenic is among the most poisonous compounds on the planet.

Cleanup of the Selby Slag Site has been a long time coming. For nearly thirty years, scientists, various property owners, and state agencies have known that the slag leaches toxic heavy metals directly into bay waters and sediments on a continuous basis. The asphalt cap installed in 1991 reduced the amount of surface runoff from the slag piles into the bay. However, subsequent testing revealed that lead, zinc, copper, arsenic, antimony, cadmium, and nickel were still seeping from the slag through groundwater flow on one end and twice-daily tidal infusions on the other.

Today the California Department of Toxic Substances Control is leading an effort to seal up the slag pile for good — and, hopefully, end any further leaching of harmful heavy metals into the environment. "We're excited about getting the site cleaned up," said Robert Batha of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, which will need to sign off on the upcoming remediation work. "It's been a mess for many, many years."

A feasibility study was completed earlier this month outlining six potential approaches; all would reduce pollution levels at the site to values acceptable under the 2008 California Toxics Rule. Two options involve excavating the slag, but according to Mark Piros, unit chief for the Department of Toxic Substances Control, they've already been ruled out. Disposal would cost more than $1.7 billion.

The remaining four approaches entail constructing physical and hydraulic barriers around the slag to prevent metals from escaping into the environment, at a cost of between $94 million and $139 million. According to Department of Toxic Substances Control spokeswoman Charlotte Fadipe, a remedial action plan presenting the preferred alternative will be available by next summer, along with an environmental impact report assessing for the first time potential harm from the site on neighboring wetlands and aquatic habitats.

Next, permits will have to be obtained from agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers, the California Water Quality Regional Control Board, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Given the toxicity of the site and its location on (and in some cases beneath) the bay, permitting is likely to be a difficult process. At this stage, there's no telling how long it'll be before the actual work begins, which itself will take another three years. In the meantime, heavy metals from the slag deposit will continue their march into the bay.

"Some of these cleanups can take a very, very long time, just by their nature," Fadipe said. "This project poses a particular challenge due to its size and the volume of toxic materials present. The Selby Slag Site is one of the largest sites in the Bay Area in terms of the anticipated scope and estimated cost of the cleanup," she said.

But that still doesn't explain the three-decade remediation process, which began in the 1980s. Piros said he wasn't sure why the actions taken in 1990 and 1991 weren't designed to tackle the problem once and for all, instead of leaving the perimeter of the pile open to the environment for another quarter-century. "Compared to some of our other projects, this has definitely been a longer time frame," he said.

Containment of the slag will be funded in roughly equal measure by three parties: former smelting plant operator ASARCO, which went bankrupt in 2005 but was required to set aside $39 million for remediation; current landowner CS Lands, a subsidiary of oil company Phillips 66; and the California Lands Commission.

The involvement of the commission, a steward of public lands, is an interesting footnote to the site's history. In the late 1940s, the commission entered into a lease with ASARCO that allowed it to continue dumping slag into the bay. Project manager Dave Plummer, who has followed the slow progress of the smelting site cleanup since 2000, explained that at the time, filling the bay for development was viewed as a desirable practice: "Every low-lying area became a landfill of some sort." Even the State Lands Commission, ostensibly charged with protecting natural resources, supported the destruction of the bay.

Some seventy years later, it's legally bound to help clean up the mess. No matter which remediation plan is selected, however, the slag and its toxic metals will remain. Phillips 66 doesn't yet have plans for the site, spokeswoman Janet Grothe said, but it's unlikely that the risk of contamination will ever disappear. ●

Nate.Seltenrich@EastBayExpress.com

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DAMNING REPORT OF OPD

Despite the city's claims of reform, the Frazier Report details the Oakland police department's culture of impunity and failure to change

By Darwin Bond-Graham & Ali Winston

At a press conference held on the top floor of the Oakland Police Department's headquarters last Thursday, members of the media were given copies of the long-anticipated Frazier Report, an independent study commissioned by the city to investigate the organizational roots of OPD's misconduct during the Occupy Oakland protests of October 25, 2011. Clipped to the front of the report was a city press release claiming that most of the recommended reforms by the consulting firm the Frazier Group LLC have already been completed or are underway. A table summarizing the report's 68 recommendations with check marks noting specific areas of progress was also attached. An oversize pie chart claiming that 74 percent of the report's recommendations have been "completed" or are "underway" stood on an easel near the podium. The message city leaders intended to convey was clear.

However, there's no way to independently verify whether specific recommendations in the report have in fact been completed or are in progress. "That was a city chart," said the report's lead author, Thomas Frazier, in response to an email about the city's press packet. "I had not seen it before [Thursday]. We have no way of knowing how accurate it is."

And, moreover, the Frazier Report gives a detailed and somewhat devastating list of criticisms focusing on OPD's system for investigating officer misconduct and crime. Not only does the department not learn from past mistakes, the report states, but Oakland police officers even acknowledge that the lack of consequences for violating policy or engaging in criminal misconduct has fostered a culture of impunity. Thus, the report raises serious questions whether the recommended reforms can so easily be completed.

The Frazier Group's findings identify systematic deficiencies that largely reflect OPD's failure since 2003 to implement the court-ordered reforms demanded by US District Judge Thelton Henderson. The report gives a detailed accounting of organizational dysfunction, inadequate planning and investigations, and a lack of accountability in relation to last fall's Occupy Oakland protests. These shortcomings also manifest themselves in the department's quotidian work of investigating and solving crimes, evidenced by a low clearance rate (only 32 of the 110 murders that took place in Oakland in 2011 — or 29 percent — were solved and prosecuted) and deep mistrust of police among large segments of the community.

OPD's shortcomings are indicative, the report states, that the department does not learn from past mistakes in spite of expensive lawsuits and settlements. The use of less-than-lethal ordnance on demonstrators last October, tactics that Frazier characterized as "dangerous and outmoded," is in direct violation of a crowd-control policy implemented in 2003 after the city paid $2 million to protesters wounded by projectiles fired on a crowd of antiwar demonstrators at the Port of Oakland.

Ali Winston

The Frazier Report strongly suggests that OPD officers coordinated their statements regarding use of force on Occupy Oakland protesters on October 25.

"Everything they learned in 2003 has been unlearned," said attorney Jim Chanin, who initiated the class-action lawsuit that underpins federal monitoring of OPD. "The problems repeat themselves because there's no accountability, no reason to do any differently, because no one gets disciplined for doing the same actions over and over."

Buried deep within the Frazier Report is a direct acknowledgment by Oakland officers that the lack of consequences for violating policy or even engaging in criminal misconduct, has fostered a culture of impunity, despite nine years of court-mandated reforms intended to eradicate such behavior. Unidentified OPD officers told Frazier Group personnel that this situation was due to the lack of corrective action by those in charge. "Members of the department observe tacit approval of misconduct by supervisors and commanders so the behavior continues."

The lack of consequences for officer misconduct manifests itself in OPD's lax disciplinary record outside of recent Occupy protests — particularly with officer-involved shootings. Lack of accountability and unwillingness to pursue improper conduct by officers are identified repeatedly in the Frazier Group's examination of OPD deployment of Tango Teams on October 25. These officers are typically assigned to gang enforcement or SWAT units, and have been involved in a disproportionate number of shooting incidents and uses of force in non-protest incidents. They have carried on similarly during crowd-control operations.

Police video shows that Tango officers first threw tear gas into the crowd on 14th Street and Broadway, which OPD and Frazier claim were in response to objects being hurled at them from the crowd. Regardless of the cause, the Frazier Report found that Tango officers violated OPD policy by not inventorying or keeping records of their usage of less-than-lethal and chemical munitions.

OPD has also not submitted each individual use of force by Tango officers for scrutiny by a Use of Force Review Board, despite Police Chief Howard Jordan's assertions last fall that the incident would be investigated as a "Level 1 Use of Force" (a potentially lethal incident). As of April, a review board had not scrutinized any of the incidents involving less-than-lethal ammunition. The Frazier Report also criticized OPD for an "unacceptable number" of inadequate after-action use-of-force reports from October 25.

The incidents pending review also include the injuries sustained by Marine veteran Scott Olsen, who was severely injured after being struck in the head by a drag-stabilized beanbag round. In regards to Olsen's injury, OPD officers testified to Frazier personnel that they did not notice him fall to the ground injured, despite Officer Robert Roche's decision to lob a gas grenade at Olsen and a group of people coming to his aid.

The Frazier Report directly challenges the testimony of Tango officers in regards to the Olsen incident. "After review of hours of video footage involving the injured party (who appears to be approximately 15-25 feet in front of the police skirmish line when he was struck and fell to the ground), the fact that no law enforcement officer, supervisor, or commander observed the person falling down or prostrate in the street during the confrontation was unsettling and not believable."

Despite the damning report, city officials say proof of change can be seen in policy changes, as well as the smoother police-protester interactions that occurred on May Day. "Policy by its very nature is a document, so you can see if it is changed," said city spokeswoman Karen Boyd. "A tactic you can view in a crowd-control situation, and see if it has been changed."

But many lawyers and community activists who have worked for more than a decade to change OPD say these claims of reform are inadequate. They point to the numerous unfulfilled reforms required by court-appointed monitors stemming back to 2003, many of which are simply revisited in the Frazier Report as if they were new problems.

"Oakland does not have a great history of implementing reforms, considering that it has been nine years since the current crowd-control policy came out of a court settlement, and it's not being properly followed," observed Alan Schlosser, the legal director of the ACLU's Northern California chapter. "We are skeptical that OPD is meaningfully implementing these recommended reforms."

A representative from the Frazier Group was not at the press conference to confirm whether the consulting firm worked with OPD and City Administrator Deanna Santana to address some of the myriad problems cataloged in the report, let alone to say whether any progress was made. "As a corporate policy, we don't comment on our reports once they are released to our client," explained Frazier.

Mayor Jean Quan and Santana also took the occasion of the report's release to announce several big "strategic investments" they say will propel structural changes in OPD. One proposal is to "civilianize" the Office of Inspector General by moving it out of OPD and into the city administrator's office.

While this idea does not appear in the Frazier Report, according to Boyd, shifting the Office of Inspector General to Santana's office is being proposed as a means of addressing the numerous problems with OPD's internal investigations of officer misconduct that are cataloged in the Frazier Report. "There were issues with the investigation process, whether it was objective enough," said Boyd. "A number of findings in the Frazier Report discuss the objectivity and process of the investigations, so having OIG civilianized and moved to the city administrator's office, rather than keeping it in the police department, adds a layer of objectivity." The independent monitor for OPD's federal consent decree also recommended the shift.

Santana was one of the key decision-makers who ordered the raid of the Occupy Oakland camp and approved of police operations on October 25 — a decision that should have been delayed until a better action plan and training had been implemented, according to the Frazier Report. Furthermore, Santana is Chief Jordan's boss, and the police department already falls under her oversight, facts that call into question whether the shift would improve investigations into officer misconduct and crime.

"I don't think it makes sense to have the inspector general reporting to a city administrator who's been so enthusiastic about everything the police do," said Dan Siegel, an attorney and former advisor to Mayor Quan who resigned last fall.

As the *Express* reported last week, an OPD officer from the Criminal Investigations Division is currently under investigation for allegedly compromising the Scott Olsen case in an unspecified manner.

The OPD's inability to conduct "assertive, thorough, objective, and appropriate" criminal or administrative probes into officer misconduct "potentially serve as underminers of departmental ethics and values," states the Frazier Report. The report also strongly suggests that OPD officers engaged in "group reporting," or collaboration, following the evening of October 25 to coordinate their statements regarding uses of force and injuries to demonstrators.

OPD officers interviewed by Frazier Group personnel also spoke of long-standing problems with misconduct investigations. "There is a long time culture of not challenging subject and witness officers," reads one section of the report. "IAD investigators do not want to be the individual who sustains a complaint against a particular member" of OPD.

One senior OPD officer told the Frazier Group's investigators that he had virtually no faith in the department's ability to police itself and punish officers guilty of crime or misconduct. "I have little faith that [Internal Affairs] can get it right and have even less faith that Criminal Investigation Division will do the case right. The CID investigation would be a waste of time. I do not have faith in the IA or CID process."

Chanin believes the lack of documentation of Tango Team's less-than-lethal arsenal, and the doubts raised by the Frazier Report over the veracity of OPD testimony to CID investigators, warrant the scrutiny of outside law enforcement. "The fact that a criminal investigation hasn't resulted in anything indicates the FBI or the Attorney General needs to step in," Chanin said. ●

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Turning Pot Into Medicine

Marijuana strains that provide medicinal relief without getting you stoned are rising in popularity, thanks to the groundbreaking work of cannabis testing labs.

By David Downs

On Monday, June 25, at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond, thousands of cannabis aficionados — some of them medical marijuana patients, others just fans of the herb — will cheer the winners of the 2012 *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup for Best Sativa, Best Indica, and Best Hybrid. The 38-year-old magazine uses a secret panel to judge strains from the best dispensaries around the Bay Area, but, unlike in years past, one judge won't be human.

This year, all entrants into the 2012 Bay Area Cup — from the OG Kush to the Space Bomb — will be lab-tested for potency and safety. The Cup's organizers also will factor each entry's lab results into the final score. There will even be a special award category based solely on lab scores.

For some at the Cup, the fact that lab-testing will now help determine the winners of a 25-year-old weed contest will be greeted with a shrug. It's a testament to the normalization of lab testing in the Bay Area, which is remarkable, given its relative infancy.

The Bay Area is just three years into mainstream consumer testing of pot for potency and pathogens, and the practice is causing a rapid evolution in cannabis science and culture. The number of labs has blossomed over the last three years, from just one to at least a dozen in California alone. In 2009, just one medical cannabis dispensary, Harborside Health Center in Oakland, had its pot tested. Now dozens of California dispensaries advertise that their weed undergoes examination.

Many of California's estimated one million qualified cannabis patients now refuse to buy untested weed. And in a stark rebuttal to prohibitionists who still claim that the medical cannabis industry is just a smokescreen for people who want to get high, patients are increasingly using lab results to find weed that will reduce pain, ease nausea, relieve anxiety and counteract a host of other medical problems without causing euphoria.

Lab testing also is affecting marijuana breeding, catalyzing a search for the most medicinal strains of pot that don't get you stoned. In fact, the days when pot was judged solely on how strong it was appear to be ending. Cities like Richmond have begun mandating that dispensaries test their products. And labs themselves keep innovating. One in Oakland has a patent pending on technology that cuts potency screening time from three days to three minutes.

All the people involved with testing — from growers to dispensary buyers and operators to lab personnel — know that one day they may wake up to a federal agent's gun pointing at them. But the eight-month-long crackdown by US attorneys in California has not yet targeted labs. Nonetheless, the labs' customers — dispensaries — are falling one by one. On the morning of June 11, the operators of El Camino Wellness, a Sacramento club that sends its cannabis to a lab for testing, were awakened by armed federal agents in their homes.

The federal crackdown also has coincided with a revolution in the medical cannabis industry — a time when marijuana, thanks to increasingly sophisticated lab techniques, is finally fulfilling the promise of Prop 215. Sixteen years after California voters legalized cannabis for medical use, marijuana truly has become medicine for many people. And yet the crackdown, billed as an effort to snuff out the illegal use of weed, appears to be also slowing down the adoption of scientific analyses that allow patients to select specific strains and products best suited for their legitimate medical needs.

It also has become clear, however, that the clock cannot be turned back. After five thousand years of cannabis use, humans are finally and rapidly quantifying every aspect of the plant, down to its genetic code. And the winners in the race to measure weed get more than a mere Cup. Sometimes they get their lives back.

Harborside Health Center has the ambience of a crunchy yet well-run bank. During a recent visit, parking attendants directed traffic as motorists pulled off the Embarcadero along the Oakland Estuary. The metal-detector operator smiled. It was busy but the receptionist was attentive. The line in the main room is sometimes frustratingly long with patients, who represent the East Bay's cultural diversity — blacks, Latinos, whites, and Asians, plus seniors, hipsters, gangstas, and soccer moms. Every day, thousands of them stream into the largest dispensary on the West Coast.

Jason David, a 35-year-old single father from Modesto, showed up at Harborside in June 2011 desperately looking for a new treatment for his son. Jayden, now five and a half, has Dravet Syndrome, a severe, rare epilepsy sub-diagnosis that affects infants and children. When he was four months old, he started having seizures. Anything could set them off, including laughing and playing. "When he'd see a bounce house," David recalled, "he'd get so happy he'd have a seizure."

Only about eight hundred children in the world are thought to Dravet. By the age of four and a half, Jayden was having three hundred to five hundred myoclonic seizures per day. He also was taking 22 different medications, including powerful anti-psychotics and anti-seizure drugs that are dangerous even for adults. "When you look at the side effects you think — pardon my language, but — you think they're fucking safe? No fucking way. Half of them read committing suicide, dreams, yelling, screaming, going crazy, pain, suffering, seeing things, delusions, hallucinations.

"My son would be crying and laughing at the same time," David continued. "I have video of him screaming and tripping out of his mind. We had to get his liver tested every six months. The medicine was killing him. He'd had a grand mal seizure that lasted an hour and a half. He'd been in an ambulance 45 times in the last year. Seeing your son in an ambulance — it just kills you. I lost my ex-wife, my car, my business, my family, my life."

David told his story to Andrew DeAngelo, the younger brother of Stephen DeAngelo, founder of Harborside. Andrew DeAngelo is a manager at Harborside who leads a monthly support group for seniors and families using medical marijuana. Jayden's doctors at UC San Francisco had referred David to Harborside. "They told me, 'Yeah you should try medical marijuana,'" David said. He was one of many parents quietly being referred to Harborside by UCSF for treatment of serious illnesses and symptoms that don't respond to modern medicine.

Mainly, it was for appetite stimulation for kids with cancer and pain management in paraplegic children, Andrew DeAngelo recalled. There'd be no smoking or vaporizing for the kids, of course. DeAngelo recommended edible cannabis or tinctures — extractions of the plant in glycerin or alcohol. Kids need just a drop. Many of the tinctures are barely psychoactive. DeAngelo started seeing parents who had kids with epilepsy, or autism, or a combination of both. "When I met Jason, he was the parent that was suffering the most out of all the parents I had met so far," DeAngelo said.

Harborside gave David a tincture that was supposedly high in cannabidiol. Abbreviated as CBD, cannabidiol is produced by pot plants and has a multitude of medicinal properties. It's anti-inflammatory, for example. And the federal government has patented it as a neuroprotectant for strokes. But it hasn't been developed by pharmaceutical companies. You can't buy a CBD pill at Walgreens.

Marijuana that contains CBD seems to modulate the body's ability to maintain homeostasis — that is, an internal balance. It's been used since biblical times to treat nervous disorders like epilepsy. It's thought to help restore balance in the nervous system as well as the immune and digestive systems. According to research, CBD dampens the activity of the human nervous system at the site of what are called the "CB1" and "CB2" nerve cell receptors. These receptors are spread throughout the body's nervous system.

Marijuana with high levels of cannabidiol also worked for David's son. CBD is thought to act like a precision guided warm blanket calming Jayden's overactive nervous system at key receptor sites. "Jayden had a seizure every day of his life, until the first day I gave him CBD," David said. "It was the first four days in his life that he had went seizure-free. I was crying. I was happy crying instead of sad crying, which was new."

The tincture worked for four months but the second batch from the same tincture-maker didn't work. "For two months my son started getting bad," David said. Jayden's doctors thought it might be a case of "honeymoon drugs." Some mainstream drugs are known to quell seizures for a month or two, and then seem to lose effectiveness.

But David had another idea. What if Harborside tested the tincture to make sure it was the same one as before? "I had done my research," he said. "I knew they tested."

In fact, it was one of the few places in the world where such a thing was possible.

Oakland's Steep Hill lab is at the center of cannabis testing in the Bay Area and California, and is now recognized as a world leader in medical marijuana research. Steep Hill's current location is shiny, clean, and huge, with room to grow in a large gated one-story office space across Interstate 880 from the Oakland Alameda County Coliseum. It's a long way from the dog hair-ridden, one-bedroom Emeryville apartment where Steep Hill started in 2008.

Thought to be the first of its kind, the marijuana testing project was launched by David Lampach, a young, self-taught grower, and Addison DeMoura, a fellow cannabis science enthusiast. The two convinced Stephen DeAngelo to personally invest in what would be called Analytical Labs.

DeAngelo, a 54-year-old, Washington, DC native, believes that if cannabis is medicine — as it is by law in California — it should be tested like any other medicine. Harborside backed the two young men, who rented an apartment in Emeryville and bought a gas chromatograph. The expensive lab device can determine the chemical composition of many substances. Lampach and DeMoura taught themselves how to use it with the help of local chemists.

The Dutch had already published a method for using a gas chromatograph to assess cannabis potency. Lampach and DeMoura adopted it, and began sampling Harborside's weed. The process involves making an extract from a sample of the strain in question: say, a couple pounds of prime OG Kush. Flowers are picked, ground, agitated in a solvent, and an extract is fed to the gas chromatograph. The process can take three days. Analytical Labs also began conducting tests for mold and bacteria, which take a week.

By spring 2009, numbers were appearing next to the display buds on Harborside's countertops: "23% THC, 01% CBD," a sample might read. Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC for short, was among the first molecules found in pot to affect the nervous system, and it's commonly thought to cause pot's euphoric effects. A THC percentage in marijuana is similar to the idea of an alcohol percentage in adult beverages, with 23 percent THC at the top of the range for flowers. It would be akin to a strong whiskey, perhaps, and thus not recommended for new patients.

Skeptics questioned Analytical Labs' in-house methodology and credentials, yet the lab added other Bay Area dispensaries as customers. One of the few economic growth industries during the height of the Great Recession, dispensaries boomed in 2009, and so did labs. The Green Rush was on. And Analytical Labs moved out of the Emeryville apartment and into a proper lab space in East Oakland, with a new name, Steep Hill, and a new CEO, AnnaKar Grabstein.

By the summer of 2010, *High Times* had tapped DeMoura and Lampach to test herb for the magazine's first San Francisco Medical Cannabis Cup, but it wasn't part of judging scores yet. A number of new lab competitors entered the market as well, including CW Analytical and Pure Analytics, and later Halent Laboratories in Davis.

DeMoura had become the salesperson and Lampach the scientist, and they hired technicians with degrees in chemistry along with new equipment, including a high-pressure liquid chromatograph. Even more sensitive than a gas chromatograph, it could detect the presence of THC acids, which were undetectable with the older technology. In short, Steep Hill had gotten much better at testing cannabis flowers, brownies, hash and even tinctures.

With Steep Hill's help, Jason David discovered that the first tincture he had given Jayden didn't have the same CBD potency as the second one. It was much lower. Lack of CBD appeared to explain why his son's seizures had returned. From then on, Andrew DeAngelo personally worked with David and Steep Hill to find, test, and supply Jayden with a tincture not only high in CBD but also high in its ratio to THC.

The molecule CBD never appears alone. It's just one of dozens of molecules made by cannabis that are called cannabinoids. CBD actually works in concert with THC on the human brain. Scientists call it the "entourage effect." A high CBD ratio to THC indicates

David Downs

Harborside manager Andrew DeAngelo leads a monthly support group for seniors and families using medical marijuana.

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A few years ago, labs began testing cannabis by feeding extracts to a gas chromatograph. David Downs

high CBD potency. Jayden needs a tincture with at least a 10:1 ratio of CBD to THC, but 12:1 or 17:1 is even better, David said. "I've gotten as good as 20:1 or 95 percent CBD five percent THC," David said. "It's amazing."

With a steady supply of high-CBD tincture, Jayden is almost completely seizure-free, and he has begun to normally interact with others. He can go in a bounce house without seizing. He can laugh without seizing.

David also is slowly cutting back on Jayden's daily pill intake, down from 22 pills per day to five. The prescription drugs were stunting his learning and making him a zombie, David said. But weaning Jayden off pills hasn't been easy; the boy has suffered from withdrawal. "Ever seen someone on crack coming off crack?" David asked. "That's what it looks like right now. If you read the medication labels you'll shit your pants. Read about Topamax. It's nicknamed Dopamax. They were giving my one-year-old ten pills of that a day."

It's been a little more than one year since David came to Harborside; he keeps track. Jayden is now comprehending things, making eye contact, and has learned more in the last month at school than he did in two years. "I used to ask him one hundred times to kiss me or hug me; he wouldn't even make eye contact," David said. "Now, he kisses and hugs me. He wants to talk. My goal is to get him to say, 'I love you.'"

David personally knows about forty parents who have their kids on CBD after they saw Jason and Jayden appear on the Discovery Channel documentary *Weed Wars*, which was filmed at Harborside and aired last year. One parent in Colorado found him via Facebook, and said her daughter had Dravet Syndrome and that she was going to die within a week from the seizures. The mother of three was ready to commit suicide out of despair. "Her daughter had the most aggressive seizures I've ever seen a four-year-old have," David said. "It looked like her limbs were going to break. She said, 'Listen, I'm going to commit suicide today. I'm worn out. I'm going to kill myself. I'm going to give up on life. I need CBD right now.'"

David tried contacting a Colorado dispensary, but the woman lacked a mandatory state ID card for medical cannabis, and the dispensary refused to help her. David then contacted the dispensary's tincture vendor directly, who agreed to help in any way possible. The next day, David received an email. "She wrote, 'It's the first time I've slept in forty days,'" David said.

The woman's daughter is now on CBD and is part of a growing support group in Colorado that mirrors one in California. David has seen CBD help kids with autism, epilepsy, and multiple sclerosis. David gets calls from parents in non-medical marijuana states and in foreign countries. Some are moving to California.

When he was young, David had tried smoking pot. And before coming to Harborside, he was ambivalent about marijuana. But the ravages of Dravet Syndrome and the relief that CBD tinctures provide for his son have made him an activist. He wants pot to be treated like the medicine it clearly is. Federal marijuana policy, as well as the policies of some states and counties — even in California — is depriving kids and parents of treatment that works, he said. "Parents are going crazy," he said of those who have children with illnesses that don't respond to prescription drugs. "It wears out your body and your brain. You don't want to go on."

Ignorance also has compounded the problem. Earlier this year, cops arrested Jayden's tincture-maker and confiscated his crop plants. "My main guy that makes my son's CBD got pulled over with it in a jar," David said. "The police thought it was hash oil and took it away from him. That was Jayden's CBD. That was $2,000 worth of CBD. They don't know a thing."

"If I don't have CBD, my son is going to go back to being a zombie again," he continued. "Not just a zombie, but being in pain all the time. I used to see my son cry for twelve to fourteen hours a day. He's already lost four years of his childhood. I don't know how else to say it — that fucking sucks. Now that I've had a year, it's been the best year of my life."

David said the dispensaries outside the Bay Area are "garbage" and "don't know shit" about medical marijuana. Federal policy is closing good clubs, and harming the professionalization

Saul Rouse

CBD-rich marijuana can help kids with autism, epilepsy, and multiple sclerosis — without giving them the euphoric effects of THC.

of the lab industry as well as dispensaries. At the same time, kids are increasingly being given prescription drugs that not only don't work, but can often prove to be fatal. "We live in a country that gives methadone to children," David said. "I know parents that have kids on methadone — four-, five-, six-, seven-year-olds. They're on Oxycontin; they give out all these different medications to children. About 100,000 Americans died last year from pharmaceuticals. Zero died from marijuana. It's a plant. That's what's killing me."

The search by Jason David and other parents for high-CBD tincture also is affecting cultivation of the plant. Cannabis labs have led to the creation of the Berkeley-based Project CBD, which tries to identify strains high in CBD and other cannabis plant molecules like cannabigerol and cannabivarin.

Lab research shows that over the years the black market had bred almost all CBD out of pot precisely because it limits the euphoric effects — the feeling of being stoned — of THC. Now plants that were once trashed for not getting people high enough are among the most-coveted medicinal strains. The *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup 2012 has a "High CBD" award to highlight the best ones, said organizer David Bienenstock, who also is a senior editor of the magazine. "We're getting strains that test 10- and 11 percent CBD. It's great."

But there's still a long way to go. For example, Southern Humboldt County cultivation reporter Kym Kemp said that, in the Emerald Triangle, growers still view lab testing as nascent and not yet reliable. The same plant can yield wildly different results at different labs. "I know some growers who shop around to get the best results so they can give those to the dispensary buyers," Kemp said. "Nonetheless, some of the best breeders I know are using the information to choose which seeds to plant and breed to. Overall, I think we are in the early days of the science, and growers are still exploring how to use it to improve their product."

David Goldman, a medical cannabis patient in San Francisco who organizes for Americans for Safe Access, said the rise in labs has led to very smart patients who are embracing CBD and smoking lower-THC pot. Halent Laboratories, based in Davis, recently gave a lecture to San Francisco ASA members on the importance of other pot molecules like CBG, CBV, THC-V, as well as terpenes — the aromatic molecules in weed. All are thought to create an "entourage effect" responsible for pot's palliative properties. Halent Laboratories now tests for eight terpenes and fifteen cannabinoids. "I think CBD is the wave of the future," Goldman said. "They're finding THC-V is good for bone growth. It also provides a soaring high without paranoia or jitteriness. It's seen in Durban Poison, Dragon's Breath, and Jack Herer. I think all cannabis should be tested. More dispensaries need to do so."

But the federal crackdown has shut down many clubs that sent their cannabis to labs for testing, including the Divinity Tree in San Francisco, which was just starting to test. Robert Martin of CW Analytical Labs in Oakland and spokesman for Association of California Cannabis Labs said the feds have "rattled us," and the Green Rush of 2009 is clearly over. "The DOJ really hurt us, and the industry has not yet recovered," he said. "A lot of people lost a lot of business that hasn't come back. A lot of operators have gone into the dark and remained in the dark. A lot of growers I know are burying money again."

Closed bank accounts, lack of credit, high rent, landlord evictions and murky dispensary laws are also slowing down lab progress, said Jeffrey Raber of the Southern California lab The Werc Shop. "The last few months have been tumultuous," he said.

Dispensaries in battleground counties like Los Angeles and San Bernardino have been using the crackdown as an excuse for not testing. "They say, 'I want to grab the last of it that I can. I don't know how long I'll be here. I'm not going to make any strategic moves for

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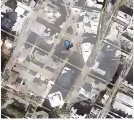

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"the long-term," Raber said.

At the same time, labs need to meet higher standards, Raber said. They're totally unregulated. And some are fly-by-night operations. While potency is popular, safety screening is paramount. About 25 percent of samples sent to The Werc Shop are contaminated with some bacteria, mold, or fungus.

Yet even with the federal pressure, there have been breakthroughs. This summer and fall, Steep Hill is rolling out its new rapid potency estimator known as QuantaCann.

When I visited the lab recently, David Lampach was grinding a couple grams of weed and loading it into a clear container the size of a hockey puck. The puck was then slotted into a machine the size of a small printer that sits on a countertop.

In three minutes, the results popped up on the touchscreen, indicating the sample has 13.5 percent THC, plus or minus 1.5 percent sample error. This process used to take three days.

Since Steep Hill was the first cannabis lab, it was also the first to realize that testing takes too long, Lampach said. "The huge issue has always been the turnaround," he said. "Dispensaries can't wait five days for their product. Other dispensaries aren't Harborside. They buy it and it's out on the shelf in five minutes. We realized this was going to be a challenge with the industry at large."

Lampach, ever the autodidact, looked into near-infrared scanning. Where feasible, near-infrared sensing is used in agriculture because it's fast and cheap. An infrared sensor can detect the telltale light wavelengths reflected by spider mite residue in a field of wheat from as far away as a plane flying overhead and thereby estimate crop loss to the pests. Modern climate satellites use powerful infrared sensors to detect minute differences in the heat levels on the ground from several miles up in space.

Lampach reasoned that a near-infrared sensor could be trained to look closely at pot and see which wavelengths are absorbed and reflected. Steep Hill tried to correlate experimental infrared scan data with potency data from conventional methods but failed at first. "We investigated it once and we thought it didn't work," Lampach said. "We realized months later we had made a mathematical error. So we went back and got a machine again and it worked."

The QuantaCann machine monitors 1,200 data points in the infrared band of the spectrum of 1,800 to 2,400 nanometers. After eighteen months of comparing regular lab data with additional infrared scanning, Steep Hill found the correlation. "It was pretty exciting," Lampach said. "You realize pretty quickly it's working."

Steep Hill built up an immense reference library for its QuantaCann, and now the calibrated machine can scan and identify levels of THC and CBD in any sample of pot accurate to within 2 percent. "It's also super-accurate for CBD," Lampach said.

Steep Hill then designed and created a scanning hardware/software product for rent to dispensaries for $5,000 per month, which is still lower than a big dispensary's current testing costs. "I think Steep Hill has a big hit on their hands," said Harborside manager and herb buyer Rick Pfrommer. "It's super simple. I think QuantaCann's the next evolution. I think this is the biggest innovation to come along since the beginning of the lab."

Pfrommer also said he prefers a QuantaCann to traditional gas chromatograph testing. "We've used it extensively, not only in getting flowers at the end of cure, but continually throughout the grow cycle to find the highest CBD level," he said. "There's problems with getting enough CBD-rich material. We're seeing a large amount of CBD present in the growing leaf.

In the future, people may grow some plants just for the CBD-rich trim," he continued. "So it's already altering the product development cycle."

QuantaCann has also enabled Harborside to push outdoor-grown weed, which is less carbon-intensive and produces far fewer greenhouse gases. A QuantaCann scans all herb that comes into Harborside, and outdoor-grown weed that tests higher than 16-percent THC is earmarked for the shelves. Some people think outdoor isn't as strong as indoor. But 16-percent THC is plenty strong for most, whether it's grown indoors or outdoors. QuantaCann has helped triple the sales of sungrown weed this year, Andrew DeAngelo said, going from 5 percent of flowers sold to 15 percent. Sungrown weed is generally cheaper, and some say its effects are more wholesome than indoor, like the difference between an organic and nonorganic tomato.

"IF I DON'T HAVE CBD, MY SON IS GOING TO GO BACK TO BEING A ZOMBIE AGAIN," DAVID SAID. "NOT JUST A ZOMBIE, BUT BEING IN PAIN ALL THE TIME. I USED TO SEE MY SON CRY FOR TWELVE TO FOURTEEN HOURS A DAY."

But labs have a lot of work ahead of them. They need to find faster ways to test for pathogens, which still takes seven days, and they must develop new methods to screen for pesticides. There are hundreds of commercially available pesticides, and it currently costs a fortune to screen each batch of pot for all of them.

Up until the federal crackdown happened, Steep Hill and other labs had begun moving up the supply chain to test growers themselves, which is similar to what happens in the retail produce industry. Whole Foods, for example, doesn't test its organic apples for pesticides. Instead, organic farms must meet standards during inspection. But cannabis grower- and farm-certification programs driven by labs have been stymied by federal interference. It's slow going in 2012.

Steep Hill is optimistic, however. The lab has nine QuantaCann machines in dispensaries in California, Michigan, Washington, and Colorado, with many more coming online. The weed samples never cross state lines, only the data.

Just over the horizon, data mining is coming to cannabis. ●

Feedback@EastBayExpress.com

CULTURE SPY

HE'S A LEGEND

Wrestling promoter, rockabilly singer, horror-movie archivist, and porn director Johnny Legend shacks up in Alameda

By Richard von Busack

Johnny Legend Mark Berry

As has become his custom, Johnny Legend starts off his day with a dip in the bay. "You can really get some swimming in, once that current goes against you," he said, sitting at a Nation's Giant Hamburgers on Webster Street in Alameda. The thought of the wiry, long-haired 63-year-old who weighs 170 pounds or so — maybe 10 pounds of it beard — emerging soaking-wet from those none-too-pristine waters conjures images of a crazed yogi coming out of the Ganges.

Which is fitting, in a way, because Legend is experiencing a bit of a rebirth here in the Bay Area. Having relocated from Los Angeles to Alameda in the winter of 2009, the rockabilly musician, B-movie actor, porn movie producer, horror-film archivist, and former wrestling manager is reviving his career with the kinds of eccentric projects befitting a man whose credits include playing the "Derelict Man" in *Children of the Corn III: Urban Harvest*. The island is a refuge for people fond of the debris of the 1950s and 1960s — in other words, the perfect place for a guy who calls himself "the most famous person you've never heard of."

He may be right. Legend is an instantly recognizable figure in the fantasy convention circuit, and a guy who's often a consultant in the field of cult movies. He's a living nexus of pop culture.

Born Martin Margulies and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Legend has been a lifelong fanboy. "Like any impressionable kid growing up in the late Fifties and early Sixties, I was simply fascinated with a multitude of things: horror movies, for instance," he recalled. "I loved wrestling, rock 'n' roll, and basically all movies and television in general." During an appearance on the short-lived *The Jon Stewart Show* in 1994, he described his excitement at meeting director Ed Wood at age thirteen. He got into the movie business during his college years by composing an original soundtrack for the tong war-themed exploitationer *House of the Red Dragon*. This led to his famed role in the 1972 anti-drug movie *Pot, Parents and Police* (aka *The Cat Ate the Parakeet*), alongside director/co-star Phillip Pine. He plays a hippie deluded by mescaline into thinking he's a bird.

His father, Bernie Margulies — an ear, eye, nose, and throat specialist — apparently wasn't fond of the career path his son had chosen. According to Legend, the elder Margulies once told him: "When you become a success later on, don't tell people I supported you from the beginning, because I didn't."

But Legend wasn't deterred. His small film career as a stag director and archivist of outré films flirted between skin flicks and legitimate cinema. He may be best known for his work with anti-comedian Andy Kaufman, whom he directed in *My Breakfast with Blassie* (1983), "a scathing rebuke" to Louis Malle's 1981 yammerfest *My Dinner with Andre*. It's a short symposium between Kaufman and wrestler "Classy" Freddie Blassie at a Denny's restaurant. Legend also appeared in the 1999 Kaufman biopic *Man on the Moon* as a New Age healer who tries to chase the lung cancer out of Kaufman (played by Jim Carrey).

On the more salacious end of cinema, Legend's triple-X hit *Young, Hot 'N' Nasty Teenage Cruisers* (1977) is a *Boogie Nights*-era oddity (in which his father makes a clothed cameo). The meat and potatoes of the film are eclipsed by odd-man jackassery. Smut lunacies had to include scenes of a ventriloquist dummy palming a switchblade, animated adult toys dancing on the floor, and a stable of donkeys watching a blue movie. The film gets a mini revival of sorts when it screens at the Roxie Theater in San Francisco on July 31. Vintage porn star Serena, the movie's main attraction, will appear in person.

Show Info

Johnny Legend and The Chuckleberries play The Stork Club (2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Saturday, July 7, 9 p.m.

Legend's cinematic revivals are proceeding apace. He recently appeared before an audience of four hundred at the Bal Theatre in San Leandro for a *Creature Features* tribute, as well as at a William Shatner fest at Alameda's Forbidden Island bar. Oakland's Elliot Lavine, a programmer at the Roxie, has brought Legend aboard for many nights of rare and bizarre films. "Johnny is a man who truly lives up to his name," said Lavine. "He's legendary for his gargantuan depth of knowledge and his demented sense of humor."

Yet despite Legend's interest in horror films and porn, he's fairly circumspect in person. "I prefer to speak in lurid imagery without actually saying a four-letter word," he said. He also claims to get sickened at the sight of real life blood.

In addition to movies, Legend has long been a "rockabilly bastard." "I've been kind of a half-assed rock 'n' roll star since '66," he said. He describes his long out-of-print 1998 album *Bitchin'* as "a real labor of love, my *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*." It was the album on which he paid tribute to his favorite tunes, including amphetamine-crazed British producer Joe Meek's "Wild Wind." "It's a tune taking on the gods, *Don Quixote*-style," Legend said.

Legend has composed for everyone, including the proto-Glenn Beck TV host Wally George and wrestler Blassie. Legend co-wrote Blassie's "Pencil-Neck Geek," a Dr. Demento fave, celebrating the roughhewn wrestler's urge to rid the world of scrawny opponents.

He still plays music, in fact, and his band, The Chuckleberries, will play the Stork Club on July 7. Legend says the show will be a mix of originals and covers, including a lounge version of the surf hit "Pipeline" and a serious version of Ross Bagdasarian Sr.'s novelty tune "The Witch Doctor."

As if all that wasn't enough, Legend is also a former wrestling manager and aficionado. He was the "entertainment manager" for "Classy" Freddie Blassie. In the 1990s, Legend created Incredibly Strange Wrestling, a futuristic lucha libre extravaganza that played at Lollapalooza in 1995. Such grapplers as the Ku Klux Klowns and Cletus "The Fetus" Kincaid strutted on the stage. Rey Mysterio Jr. worked with Legend under the name "Giant Killer" back when he was a fifteen-year-old athlete. After other parties took up the "Incredibly Strange Wrestling" rubric, Legend walked away and created a new organization: Incredibly Strange Rock and Roll Wrestling.

Conversations with Legend get derailed fast into incidents from his past. There was the time he got on camera with English singer/actress Petula Clark in the 1966 rock concert film *The Big T.N.T. Show*. His band Lightnin' issued a single of The Beatles' "Across the Universe" in 1970, in advance of the Fab Four's album version (Legend and his bandmates scooped the song from a charity record John Lennon made for the World Wildlife Fund). There was also Legend's odd-1980s *Ultimate Sleazemania* compilation on VHS, a series of trailers for such tidbits as 1958's *Curse of a Teenage Nazi* (aka *When Men Are Beasts*) ("It screams the terrifying truth!"), *My Baby Is Black!* (1961), and the pre-Mel Gibson crucflick *Lash of the Penitentes* (1936).

Legend is currently considering writing a three-volume autobiography to address all his obsessions. His latest project, some four years in the editing, is "TV in Acidland." This clip show of oddities will debut as part of a three-day Legend program at the Roxie in August. So why does he keep spelunking through the caverns of forgotten pop culture? "I simply stuck with the program, kept the faith, and never wavered," he said. "People often say to me, 'Okay, great, but what's your day job?' My only answer is 'This is it.' I just never actually grew up, or 'came to my senses,' or whatever the hell it is that most people do to become 'adults.'" ●

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REVOLUTION

THE BEST OF THE EAST BAY 2012

It's Time to Vote for Best of the East Bay!

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All votes must be cast via our web site. Go to EastBayExpress.com/ballot to cast your votes. All ballots must be cast by midnight, Saturday June 30. Only one ballot per person. Your votes should be your own. Duplicate ballots reflecting slate voting will be discarded as will ballots that have been influenced by gifts discounts or financial incentives. Valid ballots must have legitimate votes in at least 20 categories. Participants may submit comments about any winner — the best of which will be compiled and published in the Best of the East Bay issue

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Best cannabis dispensary
Best car repair
Best children's store
Best clothing store
Best comic book store
Best community bank
Best co-op
Best craft supply store
Best dentist
Best doctor
Best edible cannabis products
Best eyeglass shop
Best farmers' market
Best farmers' market vendor
Best furniture store
Best green business
Best grocery store
Best jeweler
Best massage
Best new business
Best pet store
Best piercer
Best plant nursery
Best record store
Best recycled or salvaged goods
Best salon
Best sex shop
Best shoe store
Best tattoo artist
Best toy store
Best used bookstore
Best used clothing
Best veterinarian
Best wine shop
Best winemaker

PEOPLE & PLACES

Best academic program
Best community garden
Best company to work for
Best K-12 teacher
Best neighborhood
Best nonprofit or charity
Best pick-up spot
Best place to hang out
Best place to hold a revolution
Best place to learn DIY skills
Best place to smoke weed
Best place to take the kids
Best political movement or group
Best program to engage youth
Best protest event
Best religious service
Best use of public space
Most courageous attorney
Most groundbreaking idea
Most outspoken activist
Most outspoken professor
Most revolutionary city or city initiative
Most unwavering politician or public figure

RESTAURANTS & BARS

Best African restaurant
Best bar
Best bartender
Best barbecue
Best breakfast/brunch
Best buffet
Best Chinese restaurant
Best cocktail
Best coffee
Best cupcakes
Best dessert
Best gay bar
Best gluten-free dish
Best ice cream
Best Indian/Pakistani restaurant
Best Italian restaurant
Best Japanese/sushi restaurant
Best jukebox at a bar
Best Korean restaurant
Best locally sourced/organic menu
Best Mexican or Central American restaurant
Best Middle Eastern restaurant
Best mobile food vendor
Best new bar
Best new restaurant
Best pizza
Best sandwiches
Best Southern/soul food
Best taco truck
Best Thai/Lao/Burmese restaurant
Best vegetarian/vegan restaurant
Best Vietnamese/Cambodian restaurant
Most courageous chef
Most creative drinks
Most subversive use of ingredients

SPORTS & LEISURE

Best athlete
Best basketball courts
Best bike ride
Best boot camp
Best endurance challenge
Best fitness instructor
Best group activity
Best martial arts studio
Best options at a gym
Best park
Best Pilates studio
Best place for water sports
Best place to play board games
Best place to run
Best pool hall
Best spontaneous sports gathering
Best sporting goods store
Best sports team
Best summer camp
Best tennis courts
Best yoga studio
Best yoga teacher
Most subversive exercise routine

Category we didn't think of and winner

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EVENTS&ATTRACTIONS

ATTRACTIONS

Berkeley City Club Architectural June Tours Attend led tours of architect Julia Morgan's Mediterranean Gothic "Little Castle." Sun., June 24, 1-4 p.m. free. 510-848-7800. LandmarkHeritageFoundation.org. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

D.I.Y. Day With screen printing demonstrations by the Rock Paper Scissors Collective (bring your own t-shirt) and [illegible] container home garden. Sun., June 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Jack London [illegible] Farmer's Market, [illegible].

[illegible] With a history [illegible] Main Street [illegible] 640 Main St., Ste. 105. RSVP [illegible]. Thu., June 21, 6 p.m. $15. 925-228-3517. MainStreetMartinez.com.

Film Screening: The Wrecking Crew The San Francisco Chapter of the Audio Engineering Society presents [illegible] the studio of West Coast [illegible] Wrecking Crew, [illegible] the biggest hits of the 1960s and 1970s [illegible] with producer Denny Tedesco. Sat., June 23, 2:30 & 7 p.m. $12-$20. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/250238 Art Deco [illegible]. 2789 Saratoga St., [illegible].

Fridays on the Main With live music, [illegible] sunset [illegible], motorcycles, and arts and craft [illegible] and live music. Fridays, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 31. [illegible] Main Street Plaza, Main St., [illegible]. 925-228-3517. MainStreetMartinez.org.

Greywater [illegible] [illegible] Learn how to turn your shower and a water-saving [illegible] and discussing the Ecohouse's greywater system. Sat., June 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. $10-$15. no one turned away. Ecohouse, 1305 Hopkins St., Berkeley. 510-548-3767.

[illegible] Film Lab's [illegible] With youth filmmaker talks, community discussions about the [illegible] and film screenings. [illegible] through June 27. [illegible]. Oakland School for the Arts, 1800 San Pablo Ave., [illegible]. 510-873-8800. [illegible]

Saturday Rail [illegible] Visit the Ardenwood Railroad Museum for a fun [illegible] the fleet and [illegible], with Ardenwood [illegible] the farm and railroad's [illegible]. Sat., June 23, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. $1 for all-day pass. Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797. EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

[illegible] Printing Demonstration Learn about screen printing techniques and the Bay [illegible] poster scene with [illegible] and Lincoln Cushing, [illegible] of All of Us or None: Social Justice Posters of the San Francisco Bay Area. Sat., June 23, 2-3:30 p.m. free. [illegible] Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

[illegible] Film Festival With screenings of [illegible] Alan Hirsch, [illegible] and Why I Ride [illegible]. Plus live music and food [illegible]. Films projected on the side of the Bank of the West building at 40th Street and Telegraph [illegible] Oakland. Thu., June 21, 8-10:30 p.m. free. 415-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Time With a tour of tractors from antique to modern, and a [illegible] Sat., June 23, 2-3 p.m. [illegible] Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797. EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

[illegible] Film, [illegible] & Music [illegible] With visual art, film, music, and films from young artists [illegible] the Bay Area, plus free food, and an [illegible]. June 21-22, 5-10 p.m. $8-$12. Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., [illegible]. 510-451-5818. HumanistHall.org.

Berkeley Parks [illegible] People Festival With multicultural performances, guided nature walks, activities for kids, nature [illegible] and arts crafts, [illegible], and food vendors. Sat., June 23, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. free. Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area, 2100 Isherwood Way, Fremont. 510-795-4883. EBParks.org.

High Times [illegible] Cannabis Cup With [illegible] cannabis-related panel [illegible] and workshops. Sat., June 23, 12-[illegible] p.m.; Sun., June 24, 12-8:30 p.m. $40. [illegible]CannabisCup.com. Craneway Pavilion, 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond. Craneway.com.

Party for the [illegible] A gala for the Earth Island Institute's 30th anniversary, with [illegible] and music. Thu., June 21, 8 p.m. $32.35-$104.50. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 548-1761. TheFreight.org.

[illegible] Festival With [illegible] day [illegible] to support the peace [illegible] to discover pathways to peace that [illegible] ethnic, gender, religious, age or gender differences. Fri., June 22, 7:30-10:30 p.m.; Sat., June 23, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. [illegible]. Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., [illegible]. 510-451-1906.

[illegible] in the Wild at [illegible] Zoo The annual fundraiser features Berkeley June [illegible] 100 [illegible], caterers, [illegible], and brew [illegible], live music, and more. For ages 21 and up. Fri., June 22, 5-10 p.m. [illegible]. Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., [illegible]. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

[illegible] [illegible] care and cleaning, and to communicate your needs, and more. Open to all. RSVP [illegible] [illegible].com. Wed., June 27, 6-8:30 p.m. [illegible]. 1765 Telegraph Ave., [illegible]. 510-881-0108. [illegible]

[illegible] Fertility Naturally Join fertility experts for a Q&A and [illegible] getting your fertile [illegible] and how to [illegible], high-tech [illegible] and natural fertility [illegible]. At the Lolo Health [illegible] (1214 Embarcadero, [illegible]), Thu., June 21, 6 p.m. free. 510-533-2022. LoloCenter.com.

[illegible] Club for the Birth of [illegible] The 20th annual [illegible] world-[illegible] speakers and more. June [illegible] the world. With a [illegible] Empathy Contest, [illegible], a natural [illegible] on the Bay, and [illegible]. June 20-26. [illegible] 510-724-8680. [illegible] .org/2012. DoubleTree Hotel, 200 [illegible]. 209-724-8680. [illegible]

[illegible] "The [illegible]: The 8-Step Program to [illegible] Body Chemistry and End Food Cravings, Weight Gain, and [illegible] Naturally" The [illegible] discusses her book about a [illegible] approach to [illegible] food [illegible]. Wed., June 27, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

[illegible] and Aging With a [illegible] about menopause, [illegible], and more. Wed., June 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m. free. [illegible] Lakeshore, 3018 Lakeshore Ave., [illegible]. 510-788-2300. [illegible]

KIDS

Architecture Walking Tour Join MOCHA's Kids' [illegible] Tour for an exploration of sustainable structures and green design. [illegible] June 23. $8 per child. MOCHA—Museum of Children's Art, 538 9th St., [illegible]. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

[illegible] Family Fun Day [illegible] and a Berkeley music, a petting zoo, live [illegible] June painting, juggling and magic [illegible] games, raffles, and more. Sat., June 23, [illegible] p.m. free. Sunset Plaza, 7150-7280 [illegible] Blvd., [illegible]. 925-[illegible]. [illegible]

Children's Theatre [illegible] June 23-24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free w/regular [illegible] Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), [illegible]. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

[illegible] Scout [illegible] Day Cub Scouts are invited to an exhibit scavenger hunt, astronomy [illegible] Chabot Space & Science Center [illegible] show, [illegible] and telescope viewing, and [illegible] activities, games and dinner. Sat., June 23, 2-10 p.m. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., [illegible]. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

East Bay [illegible] Walk With [illegible] 90-minute hike [illegible]. Sat., June 22, 10 a.m. free. EastBay[illegible]. Lafayette [illegible] through [illegible]. Lafayette. EBParks.org/parks/trails/[illegible] and moraga.

Reception [illegible] With music and [illegible]. June 23-24, 1:30-2:30 p.m. free w/regular admission. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), [illegible]. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

[illegible] Learn why [illegible] and how they use their [illegible] to sense things. Sat., June 23, 10:30-11 a.m. [illegible] Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797. EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

School's Out [illegible] at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach With special [illegible] in addition to Playland's regular attractions. June 23-24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Playland[illegible].org.

Summer Camp at The MADE A weekly camp with video game development [illegible], game-[illegible] and more, [illegible], and more to teach kids video game creation. Campers can join at the beginning of each week of stay for [illegible]. For ages 8-13. Starting Jun. 18. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. [illegible] Continues through Aug. 24. $275-$300. The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 610 16th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

Summer Fun Day [illegible] [illegible] Make a [illegible] and [illegible] it outside [illegible]. Wed., June 21, 12-2 p.m. [illegible] regular [illegible] Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

[illegible] [illegible], Oakland, Summer [illegible] Camps [illegible] for nature school-aged youth (accompanied by an adult) with art and crafts, participatory [illegible], [illegible] and more. Sat., June 23, [illegible]. 510-[illegible]. [illegible] Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice St., Oakland. 510-238-7219. [illegible]Theater.com.

LGBT

[illegible] and [illegible] With burlesque song, and dance, showcasing queer [illegible] of color and highlighting the importance of building [illegible] movements for [illegible]. Fri., June 22, 6-8 p.m. $10-$25. 510-318-7280. Club [illegible] 21, 2111 Franklin St., [illegible]. 510-268-9425. Club21Oakland.com.

[illegible] With music, art, and [illegible] and [illegible]. Fri., June 22, 8 p.m. The New Parish, 579 18th St., [illegible]. TheNewParish.com.

East Bay [illegible] [illegible] Sat., June 24, [illegible]. 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. [illegible]

LGBT History [illegible] June Meet at the entrance to the History Gallery for a [illegible] of historic LGBT artifacts and [illegible] along California's LGBT [illegible]. [illegible] Sundays, 1 p.m. Continues through June 24. [illegible] admission. [illegible] Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

LGBT [illegible] Comedy with [illegible] Morgan, Kerry [illegible] Yuli Kagan, and Shelley [illegible]. Hosted by Joe [illegible]. Thu., June 21, 8 p.m. $10. 510-314-2695. [illegible]. [illegible] 8 Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway, at Jack London Square, Oakland. 510-314-2695. [illegible]

[illegible] With a screening and [illegible] documentary about the 1969 NYC police raid on a Greenwich Village Mafia-run gay bar the Stonewall Inn. Thu., June 21, 7-9:30 p.m. free. [illegible]. [illegible] Theater, 336 Highland Ave., Piedmont. 510-[illegible].

Rainbow Arts Week [illegible] Pride Month [illegible] with [illegible] arts [illegible] for [illegible] through June 23. [illegible] Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. [illegible]

Reception and [illegible] Tour for [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] and event dedicated to [illegible] and [illegible] women. With [illegible] by [illegible] Carol [illegible]. Thu., June 21, 5-7 p.m. free. [illegible] Lakeshore, 3019 Lakeshore Ave. [illegible]. 510-[illegible].

[illegible] Storytelling With short, true stories about coming out. Mon., June 25, 7-9 p.m. free. [illegible] 1703 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Trip the Light [illegible] Beginners are welcome to learn and participate in two-step, East and West Coast swing, salsa, waltzes, Highland two-step, same [illegible] and dances. Fri., Aug. 26, 7-10:30 p.m. [illegible]. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]. Lake Merritt [illegible] Center, [illegible] Ave., [illegible]. 510-584-2178. [illegible]Center.org.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Kum Nye A step-in class for all levels, with techniques for [illegible] healing, relaxing [illegible] and revitalizing body and mind. Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon. $15. Tibetan Nyingma [illegible], 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Nyingma.org.

[illegible] Bring a drum [illegible] at [illegible] if you have one. Sun., June 24, [illegible] p.m. free. [illegible]. Sacred Ground Center, 2548 Byron St., Berkeley. 415-333-1434. SacredGround.org.

PICKS

A past Juneteenth festival.
Melisa Tuffan

Berkeley Juneteenth Festival

"We're Still Standing" is the theme of this year's Juneteenth Festival in South Berkeley — a nod to the endurance of the annual celebration of African American culture. The festival, the longest running event of its kind in Northern California, is now in its 25th year and continues its traditional offering of bountiful entertainment — including live blues, jazz, and reggae, arts and crafts, and tons of food. This year festivalgoers can look forward to a young-adult basketball tournament, clothing and jewelry vendors, and two stages of diverse music and dance performances headlined by rapper/pianist Kev Choice (voted "Best Musician" by the *Express* in 2009) and the North Oakland Senior Center African Dancers. On Adeline St. between Ashby and Alcatraz aves. on Sunday, June 24. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. free. 510-655-8008. BerkeleyJuneteenth.org. — *Cassie McFadden*

Flicks@Flacos!

The recent death of 91-year-old Ray Bradbury — the prolific sci-fi and fantasy writer who authored classics like *Fahrenheit 451* and *The Martian Chronicles* — marked the loss of an innovative and imaginative mind. It's fair to say that his shoes may never be filled. In remembrance, lovers of the late literary giant can fill their stomachs with taquitos at Flacos (3031 Adeline St., Berkeley) during a free screening of the 1966 film *Fahrenheit 451* in the vegetarian Mexican restaurant's parking lot on Saturday, June 23. Bring a book listed on the Arizona Ethnic Studies Network banned books list and get a free taquito. 9-11 p.m. 510-981-8061 or Flacos.com. — *CM*

SALES PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

[illegible] Family [illegible] League Spring [illegible] Sale With [illegible] jewelry, small appliances, dishes and [illegible] sporting and exercise equipment, toys and games, and much more. At 1829 [illegible] St., Alameda. Sat., June 23, 9 a.m.-noon.

Art Beat Foundation Summer Beat Camp Scholarship Fundraiser With live music by The Bye Bye Blackbirds and [illegible] June [illegible] Frank [illegible] Surratt, [illegible] and Tom [illegible]. Ages 21 and up. Sat., June 23, 8:30 p.m. $40-$100. ArtBeatFoundation.org. Vessel Gallery, 471 25th St., Oakland.

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Under the [illegible] [illegible] event for vegetarians, vegans, and veg-curious ages 21+. With [illegible] networking [illegible] and mingling, and museum access. Sun., June 24, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. $40-$35. 510-248-7252. VegSpeedDating.com. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Art & [illegible] With [illegible] step-by-step color mixing and composition, [illegible], and wine. Participants leave with a finished painting. Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Continues through June 24. $30. 510-463-1444. [illegible]. [illegible] 1[illegible] Webster St., [illegible]. 510-[illegible].

Art & [illegible] With [illegible] step-by-step color mixing and composition. Reception and wine. Participants leave with a finished painting. [illegible] Pine St., [illegible]. Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. [illegible] through June 23. $30. 510-463-1444. [illegible].

Berkeley Underground Film Society Join the [illegible] club for screenings of [illegible], Super 8, and 16mm movies and series. This [illegible] Human Bondage (1934). [illegible] at 2[illegible] St., Berkeley. Sun., June 24, 7:30 p.m. donation accepted. BerkeleyUndergroundFilms.Blogspot.com.

[illegible] With weekly [illegible] by live music performed by [illegible]. [illegible] p.m. [illegible] Club, 2[illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way, [illegible].

[illegible] With a [illegible] of [illegible] and a screening of *The Gods Must Be Crazy*. Fri., June 22, 3 p.m. free. Berkeley Public Library, Central [illegible], 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] in the Wild [illegible] Zoo fundraiser with samples from nearly one hundred [illegible], caterers, [illegible] and breweries, plus live music. Ages 21 and up. Sat., June 23, 5-10 p.m. $125-$150. [illegible] Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

[illegible] Ping Pong Saturdays, 8 p.m. $3. [illegible], 2[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-[illegible]. [illegible]Berkeley.com.

Butterfly [illegible] With a walk through the garden in search of butterflies. Fri., June 22, 3-4 p.m. [illegible] w/ admission. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

Exploring [illegible] in Traditional Chinese [illegible] Arts A workshop demonstrating the seamless [illegible] of internal and [illegible] training with elements of [illegible]. Sat., June 23, 7-9 p.m. $25. [illegible] Arts, 1406 Webster St., [illegible]. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]Arts.com.

The Great [illegible] Backyard Campout An overnight camp-out to connect with nature, family and friends. Sat., June 23, 10 a.m. free. Joaquin Miller Park, 3594 Sanborn Dr., Oakland. 510-867-6680. [illegible]

[illegible] After Summer [illegible] Hike With a hike to the peak and beyond. Bring a breakfast [illegible] to share and plan on [illegible]. Sat., June 23, 6-10:30 a.m. free. Tilden Park Environmental Education Center, north end of Central Park Drive, Berkeley. [illegible]. EBParks.org.

[illegible] With an ordinary [illegible] food and beverage booths, entertainment, educational services, children's setting, a "build a boat" competition, and more. Sat., June 23, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. free. [illegible] Encinal Yacht Club, 1251 Pacific [illegible], Alameda. 510-522-3272. [illegible].org.

[illegible] to [illegible] With 1/4- and 3-mile [illegible] to raise funds for the [illegible] Center of California [illegible] National [illegible] Month. Sat., June 23, 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. free. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]Center.org. Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave., [illegible].

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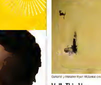
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Oakland printmaker Ryan McJunkin creates classic-looking butterflies.

Walk This Way

Piedmont Avenue's monthly Art Walk celebrates craftspeople of all kinds.

When Laura Stone, owner of The Rare Bird, opened her quaint, stylish vintage shop in 2010, she knew she wanted to create a business that gave back to, and augmented, the larger neighborhood. And she wanted other businesses to do the same. Last year, the neighborhood answered her call for a communal event, and the Art Walk was born. An eclectic mix of upscale restaurants, coffee shops and boutique storefronts, Piedmont Avenue may lack a proper gallery, but it has no shortage of creative-minded businesses, making it the perfect place to blur the lines of what is considered traditional fine art. "It's an opportunity for merchants to open their doors, celebrate local artists, and share a glass with our diverse and talented community," said Stone.

Over the past year, Piedmont Avenue's Art Walk has offered an alternative for art lovers who'd rather avoid Art Murmur's throngs of people, most of them in the demographic somewhere around the legal drinking age. With nearly thirty venues, the Art Walk is the largest of its kind in Oakland. It happens every third Thursday of the month from 6-9 p.m., and the next event, happening on June 21 (summer solstice), may be the biggest one yet.

Start the evening at The Rare Bird (4883 Piedmont Ave.) and enjoy the work of Oakland-based fine-art printmaker Ryan McJunkin. McJunkin's intricate butterflies are classic looking — especially in their "native" ecology among the vintage Western shirts and classic vinyl LPs. Next, move up the street to Lareille Gallery (3980 Piedmont Ave.), where the strangely beautiful, rusted metal work of Brenda Reinertsen adds a dynamic complement to the high-end jewelry the store typically carries.

If you keep going past the jazz bands and other venues, make your way to Montano Velo (4266 Piedmont Ave.), where owner Jason Montano is having a show of his secret photos, much to the delight of the Bay Area's biking culture. Lastly, end your evening right across from the Chapel of the Chimes at CH Good Stock (4454A Piedmont Ave.). In front of this oh-so-stylish little repository of so-called "soft vices," Rhasaun Fernandez will be selling gourmet fare from his renowned Bollo Cart, and Juniper Ridge will be distilling natural fragrances from its Field Lab Van.

For a map of the Art Walk, check out PiedmontAvenue.org/home

— Obi Kaufmann

ART GALLERIES

ADDI Gallery, [illegible] The [illegible] figure: Form and Figure exhibition features work by Joan Hearst, Jill Gibson, Christine Jennings, Karen Mason, [illegible], Kathy McCann, Mollie [illegible], Gina Pagan, and Jacqueline [illegible]. Through July 5. 1082 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ADDIGallery.com.

Alameda Museum, The Tao of Metal 2.0 With sculpture by [illegible]. Through June 27. [illegible] 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. 510-521-1233, AlamedaMuseum.org.

Berkeley Art Center, Gallery With works by more than 70 artists, including Kim Anno, Robert Brady, Squeak Carnwath, Tom Holland, Hung Liu, Tom McKinley, Mario Pingue, Kay Sekimachi, Joe Slusky and Katherine Westerhout. Through July 14. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Cafe [illegible], New Paintings by Gary Burgess Through June 29. 504 Broadway, Oakland. 510-763-7233.

CK Gallery, Discordia With works [illegible] from recycled and upcycled materials, by Susan Taylor and [illegible] artists. Through June 29. 4025 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]-2535. CKGallery.org.

Creative Growth Art Center, Natural Selection The gallery's annual show features works across media by [illegible], John [illegible], [illegible], John Mason, Ray [illegible], and more. Through June 21. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

Engine Works Studio & Gallery, John Paul [illegible] Solo Show With paintings of East Bay and San Francisco [illegible], [illegible] Oakland and Chinatown, the [illegible], and more. Starting Jun 23. Saturdays. Continues through July 7. 499 Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

Montclair Village, Pacific Fine Arts Montclair Festival Annual juried art festival featuring work in [illegible] media by more than 70 artists from across the [illegible]. June [illegible], 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sun., June 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. LaSalle and Mountain Aves., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery, Children's Art Gallery: A Celebration of Children's Creativity The 10th annual art show features works across media by kids ages five through eighth grade, students of the [illegible] School. Through June 23. 510-531-8086. [illegible]. 54 Washington St., Oakland.

Famous Four Colors Screen Printing Art Gallery, Metaphysical Graffiti With collaborative drawings rendering meditative chambers, mountains birthing crystals, mushroom guided revelation pathways, and more by Billy Sprague and [illegible]. Through June 30. BillySprague.com. 1526 Webster St., Oakland. 510-836-7681. FamousFourColors.org.

The Hive Gallery, Punk Blacks and Poppies New work by [illegible]. Through June 30. [illegible] Jefferson St., Oakland. 925-212-[illegible]. HiveStudios.org.

[illegible], Mirrored Reflections With photographs by [illegible]. Through Aug. 30. **In Bloom** With paintings by Elizabeth [illegible] on display in the Lunch Stop Cafe. Through June 29. **Paintings by [illegible]** On display in the [illegible] Offices. Through June 29. 100 8th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

Kala Art Institute Gallery, Reason from the New California With works in various media, addressing issues ranging from gender and cultural identity to the built environment and mediated nature, by [illegible], Asad Faulwell, [illegible], Justin Kaufman, and others. Through June 30. **Kala Fellowship Artists Talk** With [illegible], [illegible] Frost, and Vanessa Marsh. Wed., June 27, 7-8 p.m. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7000. Kala.org.

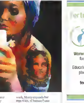
Krowswork, Documental An unofficial [illegible] of Documenta 13, with visual art [illegible] by Oakland artists including Zarouhie Abdalian, David Wilson, [illegible] Smith, Randy Colosky, David [illegible], Kelly Lynn Jones, [illegible], and many others. June 22-July 1. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-229-7005. Krowswork.com.

La Peña Cultural Center, [illegible] With a collection of abstract [illegible] inspired by [illegible] personal journey. Through June 30. 3105

PICKS

Brett Baumgart

[illegible] loves [illegible] was there when [illegible] Friday, June 22, you'll have the opportunity to be present at one such special occasion when self-taught artist Brett Baumgart unveils his first ever show of his paintings, at George Kayes (4044 Broadway Oakland). Baumgart has already accrued quite a following for his ability to tattoo startlingly real and (often horrific) images. The Livermore native is now moving into the world of fine art, and his uncanny sense of light and form is a welcome quality in a scene that's so often concerned with concept over technical skill. The venue Baumgart chose for his first show is a bar, so you'll have to be over 21 to get a peek at the Bay Area's rising star of Realism — and it's in his neighborhood. Baumgart tattoos full-time at Premium Tattoo (4330 Broadway Oakland). For more on the art of Brett Baumgart, follow him on Instagram @brettbaumgart. Show runs through July 31.
— Obi Kaufmann


A piece by Brett Baumgart.

In Our Nature

[illegible] East Bay art scene has been enamored with the arcane artwork of Crystal Morey. This month, the young artist reminds us why in her first solo show of the year, entitled *In Our Nature*, at The Compound Gallery (1167 65th St., Oakland). In Morey's delicate, figurative work, we see a young master coming into her own. The faraway stare in the eyes of her subjects are certainly beautiful, yet belie the resonant metaphor of ecological connection that her work evokes. In her latest work, Morey expands her repertoire of human busts and explores animal forms on a large scale. Ecological in theme, her works merge the human and animal worlds, representing, in her words, "a narrative of connectivity, showing the relationship that exists between humans, animals, and nature." Show closes with a Sunday afternoon tea on July 15 at 4 p.m. 510-601-1702 or TheCompoundGallery.com
— O.K.

Oakland Art [illegible] 510-849-2655. [illegible].org.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] With new [illegible] and sculptures by [illegible]. Through June 30. 473 25th St., [illegible]. 510-382-2035. [illegible].com.

[illegible] Workshop: Ugly Baby [illegible] With a collection of [illegible] paintings and collages by [illegible]. Through July 8. 483 9th St., Oakland. 510-214-6734. [illegible].com.

Marion [illegible] Johnson: Collages An exhibition of photographic, velvet, and installation work by Bay Area artist Keith Wilson. Through June 30. [illegible] Sixth St., Berkeley. 510-558-0903. MarionJohnson.org.

Mythos [illegible] Art & Artifacts: The [illegible] Nancy Drew: Homage to [illegible] With [illegible] by Jill [illegible]. Through June 24. [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-528-4281. Mythos-FineArt.com.

Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch: Oakland Art Association Painting [illegible] With showings by various members of the association. Through June 30. 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

Piedmont Center For the Arts: [illegible] With [illegible] inspired by Korean art and [illegible], by [illegible] and others. Through June 24. 801 Magnolia Ave., Oakland. PiedmontCenter-fortheArts.org.

[illegible] Print Shop + Gallery: [illegible] With works inspired by botanical influences on human culture, from symbolism and aesthetics to architecture and utility, by [illegible], Bradley Slaught, [illegible], and others. Through June 30. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

Rock Paper Scissors Collective: [illegible] With [illegible] works by [illegible], [illegible] Harkins, Nicky [illegible], Kelly Haskett, Chris Hashfield, Audrey [illegible], Scott [illegible], Michele Mark, and Sonja Murphy. Through June 30. 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-238-9171. RPSCollective.com.

[illegible] Gallery: New [illegible] New work by Kevin Harmon. Through June 30. [illegible] 473 25th St., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery: 2 for 2: Three Oakland Residencies With June artist-in-residence George Pfau, whose multi-disciplinary practice contemplates the human body, the notion of zombies, and our cultural conversations about [illegible]. Through July 6. 4221 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-800-3041. [illegible].com.

San Pablo Art Gallery: Fluid Geometry With ceramics and mixed media by June [illegible], [illegible], and Hadley [illegible]. Through June 24. 13831 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo.

[illegible] + Gallery: On Journey of Things, Empty and Otherwise A solo exhibition of multi-media works by Ethan [illegible] that negotiate and articulate unbound space. Through July 8. 440 23rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

[illegible] Contemporary: Strange Worlds/ Altered Realities With paintings by Linda [illegible], watercolors by Rachel [illegible], manipulated photographs by Ken [illegible], sculpture and site-specific installations by [illegible] and works by Stan [illegible]. Through June 30. 893 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible]: Charting The Waters A commemorative group show with works exploring the concept of a vessel by [illegible], Ronnie Cartwright, [illegible], Jon [illegible], [illegible], and others. Through June 30. 471 25th St., Oakland.

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive: Himalayan Pilgrimage: Journey to the Land of Snows Sculptures and paintings from Tibet. Through June 30, 2013. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Lacis Museum of Textiles: That Hat! An exhibition of antique and vintage hats, including a selection of [illegible]. Public and exhibits. Through Aug. 4. 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-843-7290. LacisMuseum.org.

Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, [illegible] Oakland: The Spill A multimedia video piece [illegible] on the lobby wall, featuring the artist's drawings of milk pouring down a [illegible], [illegible] with pastel, graphite, [illegible], and flour. Through July 4. **[illegible] | Berkeley Jerusalem** A multimedia project by [illegible] in which [illegible] to "perform" the city of Jerusalem as a musical [illegible] environment. Through July 8. **The Magnes Effect: Five Episodes of Collecting** The first exhibition in the Charles Michael Gallery, it traces the fifty-year history of collecting, highlighting documents and artifacts that represent the milestones of the Magnes. Through Aug. 10. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Mills College Art Museum: Untold The [illegible]: Celebrating The Golden Gate Bridge With a behind-the-scenes look at Golden Gate Bridge artifacts from the museum's collection. [illegible] Mills.edu. [illegible], June 24, [illegible] p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164. MCAM.Mills.edu.

Oakland Museum of California: [illegible] Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes The first major survey of the Oakland-based illustrator, featuring original drawings and artifacts in an [illegible] environment. Through Aug. 12. **[illegible] Bridge: Black Males** A video and photo [illegible] featuring interviews with 150 Black men in eleven cities across the U.S. The exhibition [illegible] themes of family, love, [illegible], relationships, community, education, [illegible], and more. Through July 8. Museum admission. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland Public Library, Main Branch: Lost Amusement Parks of The East Bay With photographs, postcards, newspaper clippings, and other items detailing the history of Emeryville's Shell Mound Park, Oakland's Idora Park and Neptune Beach. Through June 30. 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum: [illegible] in the Development of Pinball With pinball-themed [illegible], mechanism, electronics, art, and exhibits. Through July 8. $15, under 12 [illegible]. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-769-1349. PacificPinball.org. ●

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THEATER & DANCE

Eve Ensler with the cast of *Emotional Creature* Kevin Berne

An Emotional Eve Ensler

After sixteen years on the vagina trail, the playwright wants us to embrace our inner girl

Eve Ensler is, certainly and emphatically, an emotional creature. She wears loud clothing — black leather boots, chunky jewelry, scarlet lipstick — gesticulates to emphasize her points, and often traffics in hyperbole. Her thoughts on vaginas: "There is so much darkness and secrecy surrounding them — [they're] like the Bermuda Triangle." On security: "I see this word, hear this word, feel this word everywhere." On listening to other women's stories: "I felt like a war photographer who takes pictures of terrible events, but doesn't intervene on their behalf." On her most famous work, *The Vagina Monologues*: "I was sucked down the vagina trail, and I really haven't gotten off of it."

Indeed, she hasn't. But now, after sixteen years of teaching audiences to embrace their genitalia, Ensler is exhorting us to reclaim our emotions, too. She's latched on to the notion that everyone has "an inner girl," i.e., the part of us that feels empathy toward others. Ensler believes that part is often maligned for being too intense or passionate, and that human emotion, in its purest form, can often set people on edge. "When I was a girl, I was told that I was too hysterical, that I was too alive, that I was too dramatic," Ensler said. "Rather than being told, 'Wow, look how passionate you are. That's where your strength comes from.'"

Perhaps that's why the New York-raised playwright became fixated on girlhood as an adult. In her latest work, *Emotional Creature*, Ensler focuses on teenage girls and the litany of issues they face: bullying, date rape, eating disorders, genital mutilation, sex trafficking, religious strictures, beauty myths, toilette regimes. Ensler said that in the process of traveling around the world to promote V-Day, her activist campaign to curb violence against women, she met and befriended tons of teenagers, many of whom shared their stories. She eventually compiled them into a book of fictional (but realistic) monologues. Now she's turned it into a play that's part song-and-dance, part spoken-word, and part serious soliloquy, staged by director Jo Bonney and scored by Charl-Johan Lingenfelder. It premieres at Berkeley Rep through July 15.

Although Ensler purports to be more of an apostle than a trend-follower, her new piece resonates with current pop culture in a way that *Vagina Monologues* doesn't. A new spate of websites, magazines, TV shows (most notably, Lena Dunham's HBO series *Girls*) and films have decided to take young women seriously, both as a muse and a consumer demographic. Not all of them toe the same revolutionary line as Ensler, but most revel in female pathos. Gone is the Manic Pixie Dream Girl; the new dominant female archetype is more dramatic, snarky, independent, and apt to purge her insecurities. Ensler might call that a victory. *Through July 15 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $26.50-$103. 510-647-2949 or BerkeleyRep.org.*

— *Rachel Swan*

COMEDY

Bourbon and Barnos With a live taping of comedian [illegible] Taylor's Get on Guy podcast, with author Chuck Klosterman. A fundraiser for [illegible]. Fri., June 22, 8 p.m. $100-$200. St. George Spirits Hangar One Vodka, 2601 Monarch St., Alameda, 510-769-1601, StGeorgeSpirits.com.

[illegible] With Ivan Hernandez, [illegible], and Dave Thomason. Hosted by Kelly Anneken. Mon., June 25, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Farley's East, 33 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-835-2888, FarleysCoffee.com.

Comedy at Saturn Cafe With Caitlin Gill, Allen K., Sean Keane, [illegible], Eric Cash, and Chris Thayer. Hosted by George Chen. Fri., June 22, 8 p.m. $5. Saturn Cafe, 2175 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-845-8505, SaturnCafe.com.

[illegible] With [illegible]. Hosted by Jon [illegible] and Samson Koletkar. Sat., June 23, 9 p.m. $10. 510-214-2828, ComedyOBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway, at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-209-2620, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Johnny Steele With Tom Davenport, [illegible], and Robert [illegible]. Hosted by Jon [illegible] and Samson Koletkar. Fri., June 22, 9 p.m., $10. 510-214-2828, ComedyOBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway, at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-209-2620, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy Presents: The 2nd [illegible] Funny With [illegible], Maureen Langan, Yayne Abeba, and Lisa Geduldig. Thu., June 21, 8-9:30 p.m. $20. KosherComedy.com. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8542, JuliaMorgan.org.

Who Does Sketch Anymore? [illegible] presents live sketch comedy merged with other media, music, artwork, and short films. June 21-23, 8:30 p.m., June 26-30, 8 p.m., $12-$15. [illegible]. Firehouse Art Collective, 3192 Adeline St., Berkeley.

Open Mic Comedy A weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m., [illegible] minimum. Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland, [illegible], ContinentalClub.com.

The [illegible] Featuring live improv comedy. Wed., June 27, 8-10 p.m., free. [illegible]. Spice Monkey Cafe, 1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-208-0170, SpiceMonkeyCafe.com.

Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry Hosted by [illegible]. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 8 p.m. [illegible]. Island Paradise Club, 5430 Webster St., Alameda, 510-865-3225, IslandParadiseClub.com.

[illegible] Comedy With a rotating line-up of comedians. Open mic sign-ups at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, 6-9:30 p.m., free. [illegible], 201 Broadway, Oakland, [illegible].

[illegible] With Rod Beck, [illegible], and [illegible]. Tue., June 26, 7:30-9 p.m. $10. Boojo's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St., Dublin, 925-248-4413, BoojosComedy.com.

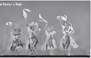
The Untold Story Featuring weekly improv comedy. Afternoon show precedes event at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 9 p.m., $10-$12. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, [illegible], PanTheater.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Ménage 2012 With [illegible] music by [illegible] and [illegible], and dancing by [illegible]. Sat., June 22, 8 p.m. $18-$25. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

[illegible] Dance 2012 Bay Area Festival With [illegible] groups and [illegible]

PICKS


De Rompe y Raja

SF Ethnic Dance Festival

The diverse cultures of the East Bay diaspora that bring great food to the table, they also bring amazing dance to the stage. On Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24, East Bay troupes make up nearly half of the roster at the 34th annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (700 Howard St., San Francisco). Dance enthusiasts will fly in from across the country and around the world (naturally) to see our global-local companies: Oakland's Shabnam in shimmering belly dance; the Chinyakare Ensemble with a Zimbabwean harvest tale; De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association in a dynamic Afro-Peruvian zamacueca; and Walnut Creek's Te Mana O Te Ra paying homage to Tahitian goddesses. The continent-hopping show includes four more companies from around the bay in dances of Appalachia, China, Hungary, India, Mexico. Sat., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m.; $18-$58. 415-978-2787 or SFEthnicDanceFestival.org. —*Claudia Bauer*

Black n Blue Boys / Broken Men

The word most often used to describe playwright and performer Dael Orlandersmith is "unsparing" — a favorite theater-critic cliché that in her case is entirely appropriate. Her current production *Black n Blue Boys / Broken Men*, now enjoying its world premiere at Berkeley Rep, is an episodic solo performance about male-on-male abuse, which is probably one of the direst subjects a woman could select as a muse. Orlandersmith tackles it with alacrity, transforming her large and powerful body into a tween prostitute, an Irish playboy, an old park janitor with a limp, a spurned child molester, and an alcoholic father, sometimes indicating a shift in character with minute gestures. She manages to humanize each of them and braid multiple narrative threads together, using a low-tech setup that includes only a chair and a gorgeously spare lighting scheme. Directed by Chay Yew, *Black n Blue Boys* is saturated in pathos — one need only read the title to see that — but it provides keen observations about social class and the cycle of violence. Orlandersmith gives credence to the idea that rich folks can pay to hide their scars, but the marks on poor people are indelible. Through June 24 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Thrust Stage (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $14.50-$75. 510-647-2949 or BerkeleyRep.org. — *Rachel Swan*

gospel artists from around the country. Sun., June 24, 7 p.m. [illegible] Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-434-5740, 510-464-3510, Laney.peralta.edu.

Valley Dance Theatre's Ballets to Remember With Ravel's *Bolero*, Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, and Aaron Copland's *Rodeo*, along with [illegible] from *La Fille Mal Gardee*, [illegible]. Sat., June 23, 2 & 7 p.m. $8-$20. [illegible] Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore, 925-373-6800.

LIVE VARIETY

One Billion Rising Bay Area Eve Ensler leads a community [illegible] and performance with Bay Area women performers, [illegible], and community activists, featuring dancing, singing, [illegible], and more. Sun., June 24, 5-8 p.m., free, 510-705-8177, [illegible]. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-981-5650, CI.Berkeley.CA.Us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12100.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

[illegible] [illegible]'s one-man show chronicles his misadventures throughout the 1980s, from failed attempts at working as a stripper and [illegible] to his stint as a live-in waiter of a retirement home. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through July 15. $10-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight [illegible] Bay Area premiere of local playwright Lauren Gunderson's play honors the 18th-century scientist Emilie Du Châtelet, paramour of Voltaire, and others. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through July 1. $10-$25. [illegible]. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7800(?), BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Friday Night Happy Hour: The Amazing Bubble Man with Music by [illegible] An avid [illegible], pre-performance show designed for adults. With bubbles provided by [illegible]. Fridays. Continues through June 29. [illegible]. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Inferno Theatre Festival With theater, music, food, a silent auction, and family activities to raise funds for the Inferno Youth Drama Program at Oakland's Manzanita SEED Elementary School and the group's 2012-2013 season. At the South Berkeley Community Church (1802 Fairview St.). Sat., June 23, 4-10 p.m., $30-$36, free for kids under 12. 510-665-0449, InfernoTheatre.org.

Marga Gomez's *Not Getting Any Younger* Gomez's coming of middle age story spans the sentiments from her childhood visit to a dairy, saw's owner at the Brava to her murderous [illegible] at a Forever 21. Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 5 p.m. Continues through June 30. $15-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

The Member of the Wedding Eric [illegible] Hayes directs Carson McCullers' coming-of-age play, set in 1945, centering on issues of identity and black/white race relations in a Georgia town. Sundays, 2 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sat., June 23, 2 & 8 p.m. Continues through July 1. $20-$28. Douglas Morisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward, 510-881-6777, [illegible].

Salomania Mark Jackson's theatrical play tells Maud Allan, a San Francisco Allston who took Europe by storm in the early 1900s and became notoriously known as "The Salomé Dancer." Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, 1 p.m. Continues through July 17. $30-$55. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Spring Awakening The [illegible] stage new rock retelling of Frank Wedekind's controversial 1892 play of the same name, which centers on a group of teens who are coming to terms with the new sensations and emotional turmoil that accompany adolescence. Runs Tuesdays, 2 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 5 p.m. Continues through July 15. $15-$22. Altarena Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda, 510-523-1553, Altarena.org.

Sylvia A.R. Gurney's comedic play deals with the tension that develops between a husband and wife after the husband brings home a street-smart pooch named Sylvia. Sundays at noon; Fridays, Saturdays, 5 p.m. Continues through June 24. $22-$25. California Conservatory Theatre, 999 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-632-8850, CCT-SL.org.

The Tempest Jonathan Moscone directs Shakespeare's fantastical play about an exiled magician, produced by Cal Shakes and performed in an outdoor amphitheater. Call or visit website for full schedule and price. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 8 p.m.; Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through June 24. $35-$66. 510-548-9666, CalShakes.org. Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

Travels With My Aunt [illegible] Graham Greene's comedic play tells a mild-mannered retired bank manager and his eccentric aunt. Fridays, Saturdays, 5 p.m. Continues through July 7. $20. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-232-4031, Masquers.org.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more theatrical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES & LIT

Not in Kansas Anymore

The Roaring Twenties come alive via *The Chaperone* and her flapper

Laura Moriarty's latest novel starts out as light summer reading perfect for the beach, staycations, and long waits in the airport. But just when you've settled in on the train to New York with the girl who would grow up to be 1920s silent film actress Louise "Lulu" Brooks and her minder, *The Chaperone* takes a sharp detour to tackle some fairly meaty issues. The book, from which Moriarty reads at A Great Good Place for Books (6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland) on Monday, June 25, is not your ordinary work of historical fiction.

Brooks remains famous today for iconic photos of her blunt-cut bangs and signature bob. She was the "face of a generation." Noted for breaking all the good girl rules, she was "pretty condescending, arrogant, wonderful, honest, authentic, self-destructive," Moriarty reveals, and she had even more going on beneath the surface. Reading her biography, Moriarty's imagination lingered on a particular sentence: "And when she was fifteen in 1922, she and a 36-year-old chaperone went to New York." Who was this daring woman? A morally upright matron who'd fought on the suffrage front for freedoms her fifteen-year-old charge was entirely ungrateful for, Moriarty imagined, and the focus of the book shifted from Lulu to her chaperone, Cora Carlisle. Drawn to write about "intergenerational tension" by creating the fictional life behind Brooks' real-life chaperone, Moriarty had plenty of opportunity for exploration. "I really wanted to inhabit this person's world the way she would see it," she explained. "There's prohibition, the KKK was strong in the 1920s. ... Things that we would so find strange today were normal." Witnessing Cora navigate New York and her own changing attitudes — toward appropriate dress and social conduct, racial issues, politics, and even same-sex relationships — is part of the novel's page-turning appeal.

Laura Moriarty Ross Neustadt

And while Lulu is busy ditching her chaperone to flirt with unmarried men, Cora reveals her own reason for making the trip. Sent to Kansas as part of the Orphan Train exodus of children from New York's *Annie*-like orphanages to wholesome Midwestern homes, Cora is determined to discover links to her past. We are accustomed to looking back on old-timey photos showing upright, happy, nuclear families, but "because there was so much repression, you had no idea what arrangements people really made, behind closed doors," Moriarty said.

Already at work on her next piece of historical fiction, Moriarty finds inspiration teaching a course at the University of Kansas on historical heroines. "Historical fiction takes you into a different culture and you can see it so clearly because you're standing on the outside. And what it does for me is it makes me really aware of the constructs of our own time," she said. When not done properly, you'll get a character with modern-day values plopped down in the past, and the reader's natural inclination is to root for them because they share the same values. "I find it more satisfying to have somebody who really does live in their time and does what is normal to them, but it is tricky to get the reader to identify." No worries with Cora the Chaperone, a sympathetic heroine who works out her own satisfying ending. 7 p.m., free. 510-339-8210 or GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com

—*Alison Peters*

LECTURES

Center for Ecoliteracy Seminar: "The Systems View of Life" With systems theorist Fritjof Capra and the Post Carbon Institute's Richard Heinberg. Through June 22. Ecoliteracy.org. Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-845-4595. BrowerCenter.org.

Chris Hedges: "Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt" The journalist and senior fellow with the Nation Institute discusses the book he co-authored about America's poorest and most [illegible] to show what we are doing to ourselves as a nation. Wed., June 27, 7:30-9 p.m., $12-15. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/246640. King Middle School, 1781 Rose St., Berkeley. 510-644-6290.

Dominic Sood Berkeley Presents: "Walk Out for the People" With a group discussion about [illegible]. Tue., June 26, 6-7:30 p.m. Actual Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8386. ActualCafe.com.

Dr. Bradley Voytek: The Zombie Brain With a discussion about zombies. Fri., June 22, 8 p.m. Royal NoneSuch Gallery, 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-889-3441. RoyalNonesuchGallery.com.

Dr. Patricia Garfield: "Dream Amulets Around the World" The author visits the annual conference of the International Association for the Study of Dreams to discuss her research into dream lore of other cultures that has led her to gather amulets and dream charms from around the world. Sat., June 23. ASDreams.org/2012. DoubleTree Hotel, 200 Marina Blvd., Berkeley. 206-724-0300. www.doubletree.com.

Film Screening and Panel Discussion: "Caring for 7 Billion: Growth, Population and Our Changing Oceans" With members from the Institute for Population Studies (IPS), Transition Albany, and Transition Berkeley. Sun., June 24, 3-4 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

Mick LaSalle: "The Beauty of the Beast: What Hollywood Can Learn from Contemporary French Actresses" The San Francisco Chronicle film critic discusses his book about French cinema's emphasis on unique female talent. Thu., June 21, 6-7:30 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Nancy Mullane: "Life After Murder: Five Men in Search of Redemption" The [illegible] Alameda, discusses her book about five convicted murderers sentenced to life with the possibility of parole and the challenging second chance they were given. Wed., June 27, 1 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Rick Maffei: "How to Travel Better, Cheaper, and Smarter" The retired college professor and moderator of the Centerline Learning in Retirement's travel program discusses affordable travel for seniors. Fri., June 22, 7:30 p.m., free. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot: "Exit: The Endings that Set Us Free" The sociologist and prize-winning professor of education at Harvard University discusses her book about taking a different view of transitions and exits. Thu., June 21, 7:30 p.m., $6-12. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

Thomas Frank: "Pity the Billionaire: The Unlikely Resurgence of the American Right" The author discusses his book about the mechanism by which dire economic circumstances have [illegible] political reality. Mon., June 25, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $12-$15. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/258731. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Alan Furst Reading from his WWII espionage thriller *Mission to Paris*. Thu., June 21, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Alix Ohlin and Ann Packer Reading from *Inside* and *Signs and Wonders* and *Swim Back to Me*, respectively. Wed., June 27, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

[illegible] Berkeley Book Society Screening [illegible]. Ages 18

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LAUREL BOOKSTORE STAFF PICKS

The Fo'c'sle: Henry Beston's "Outermost House"

By Nan Parson Rossiter

$17.95

In 1926 on Cape Cod writer/naturalist Henry Beston, living in a little house named the Fo'c'sle, observes native and migratory birds and other wonders of nature as the seasons change. My favorite kind of a book: one that puts you in another time and place, and leads you to another book.

Bits of *The Outermost House* are excerpted throughout. Beautiful book to share.

Published by David R Godine 5/28/12

Minette's Feast: The Delicious Story of Julia Child and Her Cat

By Susanna Reich

Illustrated by Amy Bates

$16.95

While Julia is in the kitchen learning to cook up elaborate, delicious dishes, the only feast Minette is truly interested in is that of fresh mouse. Lovely art and a great way to introduce kids to one of the masters of cooking. Biographical info included too.

Published by Abrams 8/1/12

Step Gently Out

By Helen Frost

Photos by Rick Lieder

$15.99

What would happen if you walked very, very quietly and looked ever so carefully at the natural world outside? You might see a cricket leap, a moth spread her wings, or a spider step across a silken web. This is the illustration of a lovely poem, with close ups of BUGS! How cool is that?

Very cool for the little person in your lap.

Published by Candlewick Press, 3/1/12

BLACK OAK STAFF PICKS

In Pursuit of the Unknown: 17 Equations That Changed the World

By Ian Stewart

$26.99

Ian Stewart is one of the best popularizers of mathematics because not only does he write "very" clearly, he is a pretty good mathematician as well. That means he doesn't make sloppy mistakes that non mathematicians are prone to make when explaining mathematical topics to the layman. In this his latest book, he takes 17 fundamental mathematical and physical facts that can be expressed by simple equations and shows how important these abstract equations have been for human progress (including the technologies that enable us to live so well today). I highly recommend this book!

Published by Basic Books 3/13/12

Uncontrolled: The Surprising Payoff of Trial-and-Error for Business, Politics, and Society

By Jim Manzi

$28.99

Although Manzi is a conservative and is associated with some think tanks like the Manhattan Institute and a rag like the National Review, all of which I find pretty hard to stomach. Much of this book is surprisingly interesting. The first part is an excellent introduction to the Philosophy of Science from a Popperian point of view and the best part makes the case that unless we run randomized field tests all our attempts to find out what really works are pretty much doomed.

Published by Basic Books 5/1/12

Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty

By Abhijit V. Banerjee & Esther Duflo

$15.99

Now available in paperback, this magnificent book is the natural complement to Manzi's book and I can't recommend it highly enough. Proof by anecdote doesn't cut it for trying to cure the serious problems the poor face. In this book Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo describe the many experiments they and others have undertaken to determine what seems to help and what really doesn't help when dealing with the seemingly intractable problem of global poverty. If you read one book on global poverty, make it this one.

Published by Public Affairs, 4/26/11

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Mrs. Dalloway's
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The Other Change of Hobbit
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1855 Solano Ave

Sunrise Bookshop
3054 Telegraph Ave

Tilden Nature Area Visitor Center
North Central Park Dr

Turtle Island
3032 Claremont Ave.

UC Botanical Garden
200 Centennial Dr #5045

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The Cathedral Shop
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Diesel, A Bookstore
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Laurel Bookstore
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Marcus Bookstores
3900 Martin Luther King Jr.

Oakland Museum of California
1000 Oak St.

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PICKS

Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot

If you've ever taken your leave ungracefully or with trepidation, you're not alone. *Exit: The Endings That Set Us Free*, by Harvard professor and sociologist Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, examines changes in our daily lives to discover and discuss how and why we're over focused on beginnings than endings. Jobs, deleting your online social accounts, moving away from family and friends, and the influence of technology are all part of the conversation, explored through real stories of transition. At The Hillside Club, (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley) on Thursday, June 21, 7:30 p.m., $6-$15, 510-848-3227 or HillsideClub.org. *— Alison Peters*

Natalie Serber

The bond between father and daughter is a popular topic of discussion, but it pays to consider the other side of the equation. In *Shout Her Lovely Name*, first-time author Natalie Serber presents stories about the deep, twisted, wonderful, and powerful connections between moms and daughters. Shouting matches and tears, misunderstandings that create a chasm of regret, and honest rungs and happy times are all themes in the stories, written by a woman who wanted to grow up to be like her mom, stayed home with her own children, and then wrote about it. At Diesel (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Wednesday, June 27, 7 p.m., free. 510-653-9965 or DieselBookstore.com. *— A.P.*

Sapphire

Precious has died, leaving her nine-year-old son Abdul to navigate a harrowing world. Sapphire and her novel do not deal in sweetness and light, as you know if you read the original book about Precious, *Push*, or saw the film. The kid Abdul, goes into foster care and then a Catholic school, where he's alternately a victim and predator, his mind and his fantasies often merging into one dreamlike narrative. Happy endings are not guaranteed. Sapphire reads at Books Inc. Alameda (1344 Park St.) on Monday, June 25, 7 p.m., free. 510-522-2226 or Booksinc.net. *— A.P.*

Natalie Serber

D.A. Powell

Each month, Lyrics & Dirges presents a handful of writers (beginning, emerging, and well-known) to highlight the beautiful diversity the Bay Area has to offer. This month's menu features Fernando Castro, poet and co-founder of a nonprofit for at-risk, LGBT and immigrant youth, Charles DuBois, locally beloved poet/performer Toussaint DuBois, Oakland poet/activist, Derek Meng, poet/essayist/translator and D.A. Powell, anthologized and award-winning author reading from his fifth book of poems. At Pegasus Books (2349 Shattuck Ave., Oakland) on Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m., free. 510-649-1320 or PegasusBookstore.com. *— A.P.*

and up. Sat., June 24, 2 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. Booksinc.net/Alameda.

Big Yes Society Discussion Group Discuss [illegible] *Freedom from the Known*. Thu., June 21, 7 p.m. Booksinc. [illegible] 1344 Park St., [illegible] 510-522-2226, Booksinc.net/ [illegible]

[illegible] Reading from her book *[illegible]*, June 28, 7 p.m. [illegible] A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

[illegible] Reading from her extensive works of poetry. Thu., June 28, 1:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

[illegible] Sharing his new self book *[illegible]*. Fri., June 22, 5 p.m. Book Carnival, 3086 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. 510-654-7323. BookCarnival.com.

The [illegible] Readers The new book group discusses *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again*. Mon., June 25, 1 p.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. Dieselbookstore.com.

[illegible] The poet in conversation with Commonweal's Michael Lerner. Sun., June 24, 2-4 p.m. $10-$100. [illegible] Center, 7450 [illegible] Way, Oakland. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Reading from her book *The [illegible] in the Photograph: The Search for My Sisters Past*. Thu., June 21, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Solano, 1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-6888. PegasusBookstore.com.

Playreaders A weekly group [illegible] to read aloud from great plays, changing parts frequently. Meets in the [illegible] Story Room. Wednesdays, noon. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] The West Oakland [illegible] shares his new memoir *Eye from the Edge: A [illegible] of West Oakland*. Sat., June 23, 2-4 p.m. La [illegible] [illegible] & Specialty Shop, 580 7th St., [illegible] 510-444-0304. [illegible]

Sharing Books We Love Book members take turns discussing a book that inspired them. Led by [illegible] Last Wednesday of every month, 12:30 p.m., $5 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

Sonia [illegible] Reading from her memoir *Sonia's Song*. Sun., June 24, 2-5 p.m. Alkebulan Jadaica, 3642 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-655-[illegible] Alkebulan.com.

Strength to Strength: The Poetry of [illegible] With a multi-cultural, multi-generational reading of original works by Adam David Miller, Kirk Shook, and more. Hosted by Kirk Lumpkin. Sat., June 23, 2 p.m. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Tea and [illegible] A monthly book group for adults to discuss any book they please. Tea and fiction served. Strength held in the library's Story Hour room on the fourth floor. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 3-4 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] The radical criminal-defense attorney discusses his book *[illegible] the Circle: Prison Chronicles*. Thu., June 28, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Oakland. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

Uniquely [illegible]: A [illegible] Writing Workshop Author Peggy Simmons teach a workshop for writers of all levels, experiences, and genres, ages 16 and up. Drop-ins welcome; long-term participation encouraged. Fourth Sunday of every month, 1-5:30 p.m., $1-$25. [illegible] Paper Scissors donation. 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-238-9171. RPSCollective.com.

[illegible] A novel-writing competition with the grand prize is publishing. Various through June 24. $40-$50. 510-530-[illegible]

[illegible] Readings Third Thursday of every month, 8 p.m. Actor Cafe, 4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

More Listings Online

Get info about 75 more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

PUBLIC INTEREST

[illegible] Metaphysical Toastmasters Club in Berkeley Public speaking club with a "metaphysical emphasis." First and third Thursday of every month, 6:45-8:45 p.m., free. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

Oakland/East Bay Gray Panthers General Meeting Peralta Comm. [illegible] College [illegible] Yuan and [illegible] join to discuss public education's issues and opportunities. Wed., June 21, 1:30 p.m. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-[illegible]

Rock Paper Scissors Youth Council Meeting A meeting for youth ages 14-25 to discuss [illegible] collaborations, professional art gallery exhibitions, and [illegible] for younger youth. Wednesdays, 5-6:30 p.m. Continues through June 26. Rock Paper Scissors Collective, 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-238-9171. RPSCollective.com.

SPOKEN WORD

[illegible] [illegible] spoken and a live improvisational band or DJ. Hosted by Bobby Gomez, [illegible] and Katelyn Lucas. Win up to $150 in cash prizes. Wed., June 21, 8 p.m. $8. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPloughPub.com.

[illegible] A weekly open mic for up-and-coming spoken word artists, poets, and comedians. Sign-up begins at 8 p.m. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m., free. Dorsey's Locker, 5817 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-428-2825. DorseysLocker.com.

Storytelling Swap Storytelling open mic hosted by Cathy Toms. Third Saturday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

[illegible] Word Art Open-Mic Night Poets, storytellers, musicians, and other writers are invited to share their work. [illegible] and fourth Fridays, 7:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Zocalo Coffeehouse, 645 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. 510-569-0112. ZocaloCoffeehouse.com.

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Comal's best dishes are its simplest, like its grilled corn on the cob. Chris Duffey

BEYOND TACOS

Comal's Matt Gandin may not be the savior of the Bay Area's Mexican food scene, but he knows his *mole coloradito* and makes a mean guacamole.

By Luke Tsai

For the past two weeks, Twitter has been abuzz with talk of a pair of Chinese-American food luminaries who attempted to answer a prickly question: Why is this country's dining public so quick to proclaim American-raised chefs to be the undisputed "masters" — saviors, even — of immigrant cuisines they didn't discover until they were adults?

In "Cuisines Mastered as Acquired Tastes," a piece Frances Lam penned for *The New York Times*, the author lists myriad examples: Portland's Andy Ricker (Thai food), Chicago's Rick Bayless (Mexican), New York's Alex Stupak (also Mexican) — each a darling of the critics, each more successful than the vast majority of immigrant chefs cooking their native cuisines. Lam posits several theories: American-born chefs are more media-savvy; they're more likely to be backed by investors; they understand the nuances of the American palate.

Eddie Huang, the Taiwanese-American chef-owner of New York's Baohaus, is more blunt. He says this kind of messaging — that this or that American chef is "elevating" Chinese food or Mexican food — is nothing short of cultural commodification.

"There should be a level of respect and tribute paid for the people who schooled you," Huang argues in a subsequent dialogue with Lam, published on Gilt Taste. In Huang's view, American-born chefs shouldn't pass themselves off as "masters" of a cuisine they've come to as outsiders.

So what to make of Comal, the new Oaxacan-inspired, California-inflected Mexican restaurant in downtown Berkeley owned by John Paluska — former manager of the rock band Phish — with Chef Matt Gandin (yes, a white American chef who built his reputation cooking at an Italian restaurant) helming the kitchen? Comal is by far the most heavily hyped restaurant to open recently in the East Bay — within a two-week span, various foodie news sites ran more than a dozen preview stories (complete with photo slideshows). A couple weeks after it opened, there were message board commenters declaring that Comal served the best Mexican food they'd ever had in this country.

I'll admit I was turned off by the hyperbole. And after two visits to Comal, I still don't think the restaurant is redefining Mexican food in the Bay Area — it isn't the only Mexican place using local, seasonal ingredients, and the regional dishes on the menu aren't so obscure. Then again, Gandin himself never made those claims.

What Gandin does talk about is how, yes, he was inspired by the time he spent living in Mexico as a graduate student — but also about his culinary birthright as a native of Southern California, which he considers an "extension of Mexico, in terms of food." After all, pozole was his childhood comfort food.

Gandin said that, in spite of the existence of authentic Mexican restaurants in Fruitvale and beyond, the cuisine is still underappreciated in the Bay Area — especially once you veer away from humble taqueria fare. And in order to get the good stuff, you end up having to eat at a flimsy plastic table somewhere.

I'll concede the point: Comal is a gorgeous restaurant — one of the few I'd recommend based on aesthetics alone. Much has already written about the beautifully transformed space; I'll just add this: The outdoor picnic table area — where people can have a drink while they wait for a spot in the dining room — is a stroke of genius. And the restaurant's covered back patio offers one of the most pleasant al fresco dining experiences in Berkeley. With the festive strings of lights and a cool breeze blowing, all we needed was a view of the ocean, and we could have been eating at some seaside resort.

Meanwhile, I appreciated how Gandin showcases Mexican flavors using local ingredients, and the fact that the menu changes quite a bit from week to week. Sometimes, however, dishes added up to less than the sum of their parts — especially with the restaurant's signature masa-based items, many of which are finished on a traditional "comal" (a kind of round griddle).

For instance, the grilled rock-cod tacos had great components: handmade tortillas and a pickled cabbage slaw. The fish was perfectly cooked, but also perfectly bland. And squash blossom quesadillas were ruined by an excessive amount of cheese, which overwhelmed the delicate blossoms.

There were times, too, when the prices seemed out of whack: $7 for a small bowl of strawberries with little value added — just a cookie and bit of lime juice and *chile de árbol*. With much of the menu taken up by small plates mostly priced between $8 and $14, it's easy to rack up a big bill. There are also large *platos fuertes* — wood-grilled meats priced at upwards of $39 — meant to feed two or three people.

But when the kitchen is firing on all cylinders, the food at Comal can be spectacular. The pork enchiladas were a showstopper, served in a brick-red *mole coloradito* that grew on me with each bite — layers upon layers of flavor, sweet and smoky, with a heat that hits you in the back of your throat. A spring vegetable soup was packed with the best of Northern California's early-June bounty — fava beans, summer squash, fresh corn, and at least a half-dozen other veggies. The subtly spicy broth was packed with flavor.

Ultimately, despite Gandin's desire to move beyond taqueria fare, Comal's best dishes are its simplest. There was a delicious version of the street snack *elote* — grilled corn on the cob slathered in chipotle mole and excellent handmade *queso fresco*. And while I was initially put off at paying $8 for guacamole, Gandin's minimalist guac turned out to be the best I've ever had. There wasn't a single fancy thing about it, just smooth avocado, lime juice, and serrano chiles. Scooped up with thick house-made tortilla chips, this was my favorite bite in two visits.

The last time I ate at Comal, the gentleman next to me at the bar ended up in a novel while nursing a cocktail and a bowl of guacamole. The guy had the right idea. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

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WHAT THE FORK

OUSD LOOKS TO REVAMP SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Plus the Phat Beets collective's new North Oakland farmers' market.

By Luke Tsai

The Oakland Unified School District recently passed an ambitious $1.5 billion Facilities Master Plan that outlines a wide range of projects the district wants to implement in the next five to ten years. Included in the plan is an estimated $44 million that OUSD hopes to budget toward revamping its school lunch program.

The proposal is based on the recommendations of the Berkeley-based nonprofit Center for Ecoliteracy and it sets some far-reaching goals, including the creation of a central commissary kitchen and adjacent 1.5-acre farm, plus the refurbishing of dozens of outdated school kitchen facilities.

According to Zenobia Barlow, the Center for Ecoliteracy's executive director, Oakland's food program has already seen tremendous improvement under Nutrition Services Director Jennifer LeBarre, who during her tenure has instituted "Meatless Mondays" and banned soda and high-sodium foods.

Nevertheless, significant obstacles continue to prevent the district's three hundred food service workers from providing fresh, healthy food for OUSD's 38,000 students (70 percent of whom are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch). So when the center approached the district with a proposal to conduct an in-depth feasibility study — a look at what realistic steps could be taken to reform the district's school lunch program and an analysis of how much that would cost — both LeBarre and OUSD Superintendent Tony Smith embraced the idea.

In the end, the study's findings painted a rather bleak picture. Fewer than one in four Oakland public schools have a working kitchen. Even in those that do have functional kitchens, most of the equipment is so old that it no longer works. Consequently, much of the "cooking" that takes place consists of little more than popping pre-packaged foods into a microwave.

The center's recommendations hinge on the creation of a central commissary kitchen in West Oakland and, attached to that facility, a 1.5-acre farm that would eventually supply a portion of the district's fresh produce needs. "The general wisdom in the business is that a central kitchen is the most economical way to function," Barlow said. "Some things can best be done in a centralized way." She explained that ingredients for a pizza might be prepped at the central kitchen and then trucked over to each school, where kitchen staff would assemble and bake the pizzas fresh onsite.

Meanwhile, the approved Facilities Master Plan also includes a proposal to refurbish 17 fully functional cooking kitchens and 58 "finishing" kitchens. In addition, Barlow said there are tentative plans to transform fourteen of the refurbished facilities into school-community kitchens — "kitchens that moonlight," whether as venues for culinary training for youth or as micro-business incubators.

Barlow estimated that the creation of the central kitchen and farm, the school kitchen refurbishing, and the creation of a limited number of community kitchens would cost approximately $27 million.

At its upcoming June 27 meeting, the OUSD school board will likely vote on whether to put a $475 million bond measure on the November 6 ballot. If the proposed bond measure were to pass, the district would then need to decide how much of that money to allocate to its nutrition services program.

Phat Beets Launches New North Oakland Farmers' Market

On Saturday, the food justice collective Phat Beets Produce celebrated the launch of its new North Oakland Flea N' Farmers' Market at 942 Stanford Avenue. The market had already moved to its new location on June 2, but the organization hosted an all-day Juneteenth celebration on Saturday — during the market's regular 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. hours — as a livelier and more official kickoff.

In fact, the Phat Beets Saturday market has existed for about two years already, but was previously held a couple blocks away, outside the North Oakland Arlington Medical Center. According to Sarena Rupani, a member of the Oakland-based collective, the availability of an abandoned building at the corner of Stanford and Lowell provided a unique opportunity to expand the market and to hold it at a more visible space.

New features will include a healthy cafe and a commercial kitchen space, both of which are being created by a small cooperative that's partnering with Phat Beets. The kitchen, in particular, is meant to provide economic stimulus for the area, as aspiring food entrepreneurs will be able use the space as a business incubator. Both projects are still a few months away from coming to fruition, Rupani explained. Also providing economic opportunity will be the flea market, where vendors can set up a stall for a mere $5, with priority given to those who live in the neighborhood.

What won't change will be Phat Beets' commitment to providing fresh, healthy food for a North Oakland neighborhood where those options are extremely limited. Rupani said the area doesn't quite qualify as a "food desert," but it doesn't have a fully functioning grocery store. "People shop at corner stores, or else they have to go to Berkeley," she explained.

The Saturday market will feature affordably priced produce from four small organic Bay Area farms — mostly those that are owned and operated by people of color. Low-income families suffering from diet-related diseases will be able to make purchases using vouchers. The site will also function as the pickup point for Phat Beets Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes, which are also available to low-income families at a subsidized rate.

In addition, Phat Beets will host a variety of educational workshops at the market. On Saturday, June 23, a three-week series on "Deconstructing Oppression in the Food System" will kick off, running from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each week. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name

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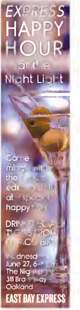
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Penelope feels like a beacon or maybe a secret hideout.

LAST CALL

IN PLAIN SIGHT

It'd be easy to miss Downtown Oakland's Penelope. But that would be a mistake.

By Ellen Cushing

On the flat, wide corner of 14th and Clay streets — across the street from a massive underground parking lot and a dolefully ... town and a few blocks north of the point where that part of town goes from old-timey adorable to office-building indistinctive, where the primary architectural aesthetic seems to be sandstone-colored and bulbous and the feeling of corporate productivity hangs thick in the air — Penelope feels like a beacon or maybe a secret hideout. Occupying a tiny jewel box of a ground floor space in what's commonly known as the Ask building, it's not quite a hole-in-the-wall technically, because hole-in-the-wall usually implies dark and divey, not light-filled and lovely, but it certainly is easy to miss.

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PenelopeOakland.com

"I work right next door and this is my first time here!" a blissed young woman proclaimed last Friday over one of *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*'s better and deeper cuts, and between sips of a ruby red cocktail. It seemed to be the prevailing sentiment. According to bar manager Johnny Navarro, he routinely gets customers who work in the area, sometimes even in the very building, but who, after three years, have just finally noticed Penelope.

It is indeed an unassuming place, its sweet front patio blending into the neutral-colored palette agreeably, its small space fitting in like yet another shiny deli or off-brand coffee shop of the variety you only find in the basements of big office buildings. But mostly, it's just not the kind of place you'd expect to find here. Inside, the walls are papered in a beautiful organic-looking emerald-green print, and the handsome, dark-wood bookshelf is artfully cluttered with a collection of funny hipster artifacts (board games, marble busts, a pair of abaci). Embedded in the stone bar, there's a series of little display cases — kind of like horizontal portholes, if you can picture that — bearing little discs of pyrite resting on a bed of salt.

Navarro and his business partner, Tung Tran, opened Penelope in 2009, right before the East Bay cocktail boom did its official booming, and it's hard not to notice how ahead of the curve the place is. There are big, framed paintings of birds and specials written in chalk on the walls, and fresh fruits and vegetables in the drinks. If it were three blocks south toward Old Oakland or five blocks northeast toward Uptown, Penelope would be a totally different place — completely overrun, first of all, and loud as hell, and sceney in that stinky, self-conscious way. As it is, though, it has all the trappings of the kind of bar people are unconscionably eager to check into on Foursquare, but none of the pretension. This, if you can't tell, is a very, very good thing.

Penelope's cocktails are inventive and organic where possible, if the teensiest bit overpriced, and certainly well made: The Penelope (tequila, fresh beets, apple, pear, lime, $9), for example, is interesting but completely un-self-conscious, and the Jah Berry (Plymouth Gin, jalapeño, blackberries, Luxardo Maraschino liqueur, fresh lime, $10) is my official new summer drink, henceforth — but if you ask Navarro what his signature cocktail is, he'll probably just smile, shrug, and ask you what you like, with zero attitude. Penelope is pretty much exclusively an after-work bar — it closes at 10 and is only open weekdays — and as such, skews a little older than its Uptown counterparts. Most nights, the regulars take over the east curve of the bar for a contained but-contented dice game. The chalkboard specials wall is a little smudged sometimes, and the busts and board games are joined, incongruously and utterly charmingly, by a vaguely terrifying painting of a mime that Navarro's father donated to the bar and nobody had the heart to get rid of. According to Navarro, the porthole-pyrite was supposed to react with the salt in some way — turn it a different color, maybe; he's understandably fuzzy on the details — but that never actually happened. Nobody seems to mind. ●

Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

Berkeley Restaurants with Outdoor Seating

900 Grayson

900 Grayson St., Berkeley 510-704-9900. The dishes have offbeat, campy names like LadyBoy and TV Dinner, but don't let the kitschy language distract you from the other charms of this quietly upscale breakfast-and-lunch place. The cooking shines with bold seasonings and refined technique, and the service navigates crisp and casual as few restaurants can. That mix of laidback and pristine is a fitting blend for the new West Berkeley, a traditionally scrappy neighborhood recently sprouting sleek condo lofts. Still, 900 Grayson's burger, topped with chunky bacon and barbecue sauce, defies gentrification's stereotypes. $$

Babette

[illegible] Ave., Berkeley 510-684-1316. Babette is a non-[illegible] [illegible] museum cafe that's not mediocre. Tucked inside the Berkeley Art Museum, this hip little spot is a marvel of chic-meets-homey, perfect for the gallery-weary savant who needs a place to nosh and revive. The food is a rotating menu of farm-to-table done well, a suitable complement for the institution that hosted Chez Panisse's 40th anniversary bash. The final irony of this winning museum cafe is that most of its customers wander in off the street, completely unaware that it's connected to BAM. $

Cafe Rouge

1782 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-525-1440. Berkeley's well-coiffed and well-to-do have taken Cafe Rouge to heart. It's a classic Californian restaurant, complete with all the trappings: organic vegetables and sustainably raised meats, a wood-fired oven, and smooth and efficient service. Chef Marsha McBride creates deceptively simple food, but imbues even her hamburgers with juicy meaty love. Some say her roast chicken with savory bread pudding is one of the best dishes in the region. $$-$$$

Bar Cesar

1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-883-0222. Named the purveyor of the East Bay's best martini in several *Express* polls, cement-floored César serves all sorts of classic cocktails, each tweaked to showcase the bartenders' massive library of top-notch spirits, as well as American and Spanish wines and a fine list of sherries. Though their quality has slipped of late, the tapas and *bocadillos* ("little mouthfuls") — with bold appearances by serrano ham, salt cod, and the ever-popular fried potatoes — help you stay sober enough to enjoy your second and third rounds.

Freehouse

2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-647-2300. After David Rosa shut down struggling yet-beloved Adagia, he decided to give the sophisticated farm-to-table spot a total overhaul. What emerged is Freehouse, a campus brewpub at the end of a row of frats. The menu still has whispers of its former greatness, and quality ingredients are clearly a priority to chef Kevin Kroger (Moose's Kettle), but much of the pub grub is flawed or just uninteresting. The menu is almost beside the point, though. A bar/restaurant this close to campus, dramatically housed in a former church, has a student fanbase practically built in. $$

Gregoire

2109 Cedar St., Berkeley 510-883-1893. At Grégoire Jacquet's minuscule takeout restaurant, the affable Frenchman cooks all the food to order. You'll have trouble making it home with your stash of warm, heavenly smelling cardboard boxes without taking at least one peek. (Don't try to keep your hands off the crispy cheesy potato puffs, because they're best straight out of the fryer.) Lunch features a bevy of memorable sandwiches; dinners are more expensive, albeit casual, restaurant-style entrées like chicken wings and rack of lamb. $-$$

International House

2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley 510-642-9490. A majestic domed and tile-roof skyscraper set in global fellowship, International House is home to 600 mostly foreign UC Berkeley students. Its dining hall is Southside's best-kept secret, because for the price of your average burger-Coke-and-fries, nonresidents can eat to utter repletion here too, quaffing a wide range of international dishes, from chicken masala to vegan goulash to coq au vin to Jell-O in the columned refectory or on a creamy patio flanked, Riviera style, by citrus trees. $

Jimmy Beans

1290 Sixth St., Berkeley 510-528-3435. Lovably garage-like Jimmy Bean's marries the blue-collar soul of Gilman Street to a foodie-of-the-world culinary sensibility that's pure Berkeley. Show up at breakfast for silver-dollar pancakes and omelets garnished with tomato-based green chutney or at lunch for the delectable lamb sandwiches and jerk-chicken brunch. Dinner is mellower without the crush of hipsters and mechanics that makes this place feel essential to the neighborhood. $-$$

Jupiter

2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-8277. Just a stone's throw from UC Berkeley, the local talent checks itself out at this upstairs-downstairs-and-outdoors pub, washing down wood-fired pizza, focaccia sandwiches, and salads with the outpourings of 30 taps, including 9 brews made right here. A crackling open fire on the patio out back perfumes the air for a city block, helping make this a first-date fave. $$

La Note

2377 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1535. Earth-toned decor lends a Provençal air, while a casual and often elbow-to-elbow crowd revels in its belief that no amount of Frenchification is enough. A garden patio lures brunchers, who tuck into egg specialties, pancakes, baguette sandwiches, and more. Dinner specialties such as spicy merguez sausage and ratatouille really do resemble what you'd find on a menu in France. $$-$$$

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub

2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-845-1652. Lanesplitter isn't just a pizzeria, it's a lifestyle. The crackly thin-crust pizzas, sold by the slice and by the pie, are quite the draw but not the main one. Everyone, from art students to young families, shows up at the three sit-down locations — big, quirky, and instantly comfortable — to hang out for hours, chatting over their veggie combos and pitchers of local microbrews. $

Paisan

2514 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-649-1031. The thin-crust pizza concept from the Ka Restaurant Group (Sea Salt, T Rex, Lalime's, etc.) serves a sort of hybrid Neapolitan-NorCal pie, showcasing farm-fresh produce and high-end proteins on the chewy sort of crust Californians seem to prefer. The space is handsome, with exposed brick, rough timbers, and floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on San Pablo Avenue, but the quality of the pizzas varies (rule of thumb here: the more toppings the better). The day starts with a casual breakfast, featuring Blue Bottle coffee, sweets from the Ka pastry department, and a couple of egg dishes. $$

Paragon Restaurant

41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley 510-549-8585. It's swank, it's sleek, it's filled with the hip and the moneyed. Leave your Birkenstocks at home when you dine at the East Bay's most stylish restaurant. Surprisingly, the food aims for the homey, and succeeds about half the time, as does the service. Sip your cocktails outside to enjoy sweeping views of the bay, or perch yourself on a movable cube

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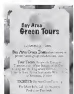
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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Kamdesh Afghan Kebab House

3[illegible] St., Oakland, 510-286-1900. Even if you've never tried Afghan cuisine, you'll find the food at Kamdesh Afghan Kebab House entirely approachable. It is the essence of down-home comfort fare: tender braised meats; soft, garlicky vegetables; warm bread. The *bolani* — a traditional stuffed flatbread — arrives at the table piping hot with a potato-and-onion filling that recalls good homemade pierogi. Kamdesh's charbroiled kabob options are intensely flavorful but prone to being overcooked. Best is any dish served with braised lamb shank, especially the *quabili palaw*, a biryani-like rice casserole with raisins, pistachios, and rice cooked in the juices of the lamb. $$

Café Jolie

1500 Webster St., Alameda, 510-523-4500. Chef-owner Joann C[illegible] calls Café Jolie a "French-American bistro," meaning the menu is a mixed bag: chicken crêpe and Cobb salad and a run-of-the-mill selection of egg dishes alongside pastries imported straight from France. Lunch offerings tend to be stronger than most breakfast options, including a solid *croque monsieur* (with béchamel served on the side) and a tasty all-breast-meat chicken burger on a toasted brioche bun. The space is bright and pleasant, and there is a nice patio area for those who enjoy dining al fresco. $-$$

Cafe Clem

2120 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-526-4373. Café Clem brings a lot of Parisian charm to downtown Berkeley with its antiquey (and tiny) end-of-rd interior and pleasant outdoor terrace. The order-at-the-counter cafe is popular with the Berkeley High lunch crowd, but because it lacks a full kitchen — unlike its sister restaurant, La Note — you're better off sticking to salads and sandwiches. The *croque monsieur*, while not traditional, is a good riff on a grilled ham and cheese, and the delicious *saucisson beurre* features high-quality imported French salami on a well toasted and buttered baguette. *Avoid* items that would normally be cooked on a stovetop, like scrambled eggs. Meanwhile, an extensive pastry display case features products from a host of local bakeries. $

Agrata

1889 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4373. With its fancy light fixtures, white tablecloths, and abundant silverware (a big fork and a little fork), Agrata is one of the East Bay's more elegant Indian restaurants. More importantly, the food is as varied as it is refined, with a focus on creative preparations of harder-to-find regional specialties. Chef-owner Lachu Moorjani eschews typical curry-house standards such as *chana masala* and *aloo gobi*. Instead, the rotating menu of regional dishes might include things like *the royal machi* — perfectly cooked fish fillets served over a lush caramelized onion sauce — or *dalcha gosht*, a South Indian braised lamb dish with all the richness and depth of a good beef bourguignon. Even humble offerings like the mango lassi and the assortment of naan breads are better than average. $$-$$$

American Oak

25[illegible] Central Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible]. At American Oak, an upscale whiskey bar on one of the Park Street corridor's quieter blocks, Chef Gabe Carbon serves up [illegible] and veggie burgers and wood-fired pizzas — fun, approachable gastropub fare that matches, and often outshines, its acclaimed counterparts in Oakland and across the bay. The menu, which changes each month, is a mix of updated American comfort food and French bistro fare. Stick to the items cooked in the 900-degree wood-burning oven and you can't go wrong: beautifully blistered pizzas and roasted chicken with super-crisp skin and uniformly juicy meat. $$-$$$

Nature Vegetarian Restaurant

1115 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-238-9686. The Chinese have a long and comfortable history of mock meat consumption, harkening back to food served to alms-givers at Buddhist temples a thousand years ago. And diners craving vegetarian versions of their favorite Chinese dishes would be hard-pressed to find a better option than Nature Vegetarian Restaurant, where chef-owner Jian Liu, a devout Buddhist himself, makes all of the restaurant's gluten- and soy-based meat substitutes in house. Menu highlights include the spectacularly crispy sesame "chicken" and stuffed eggplant that's batter-fried, shaped like a whole fish, and served tableside. During off-peak hours, vegetarian versions of traditional dim sum items are served. $-$$

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inside and listen to live jazz or live DJs. $$$

Slow

1966 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-3663. Omaha, Nebraska-born chef Kyle Anderson worked at top-rated restaurants including Daniel in New York City and Charlie Trotter's in Chicago before deciding to open a restaurant of his own — then chose Berkeley as its location because of the fine local produce at what he considered to be bargain-basement prices. At Slow, he aims to pass the savings on to you, with $5 and $6 sandwiches for lunch (the chicken-salad sandwich is a festival of toasted almonds, juicy grapes, and free-range meat) and generously portioned dinner dishes (such as chicken confit and lemon pesto linguini) at around $10. Seating is at backless stools along a counter, and there's no table service, which also keeps costs down. $-$$

Sunny Side Café

2136 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-845-9100. Helming the kitchen is scientifically trained, self-described "Eco-Chef" Aaron French, who traveled the world studying fragile ecosystems before becoming a full-time chef at the original Sunny Side on Solano Avenue. The Berkeley restaurant opened in 2010, offering breakfast, brunch, and lunch with an eye to seasonality and sustainability. Among a wide range of sandwiches, egg dishes, and other daytime-dining classics, spotlights include crispy-outside home fries and many versions of eggs Benedict, topped with house-made Hollandaise. French's signature dish is the Alameda: ham (or other savory ingredients) sandwiched between two French-toast slices, topped with two eggs, Hollandaise, and a balsamic reduction. $$

Zut!

1820 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-0444. This handsome addition to the Fourth Street shopping scene serves imaginative regional Mediterranean dishes crafted from freshly plucked local ingredients. Chorizo-stuffed squid, smoky lamb meatballs, thin-crusted pizzas with fresh mozzarella, and able dishes of greens, lentils, beets, and polenta are among the menu's standouts. Other dishes are on the overcooked side. Get the seasonal granita for dessert and one of the yummy house cocktails at the zinc-topped bar. Sidewalk seating and retractable skylight classy yet inviting amber/glass/polished-wood/earth-toned setting. $$$

Price Key

Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50.

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

[illegible] Vineyards Wine Dinner With wines to pair including: avocado-apple Waldorf salad, crispy apple chips, and Mashed [illegible]; grilled pork tenderloin; figs of Sonoma bay goat cheese; cherry bread pudding; Muscat de Beaulieu, and more. Tue., June 26, 6-9 p.m., $75. [illegible] 6118 Medau Pl., Oakland. 510-482-8282.

Beef Butchery Class Learn and to cook a steak, a burger, and a roast. Participants take home two steaks, one pound of burger meat, and a three-pound roast. Sun., June 24, 1-6 p.m., $95. The Local Butcher Shop, 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6328. TheLocalButcherShop.com.

Beer Market With local craft beer, [illegible], [illegible], vintage [illegible], art, and more. Saturdays, 2-8 p.m., free. [illegible] West, 411 26th St., Oakland. 415-608-1136. [illegible]West.com.

Drink Off Broadway With producer/beer booths including [illegible], [illegible] of the Bay, [illegible] Duck, [illegible] Catering, [illegible], [illegible] of India, Pot of Rice and more. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 12. 510-464-6340. [illegible]. Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St., Oakland, 510-597-5027. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

Prepared in the Country Kitchen Sample produce cooked in a wood burning stove, learn about [illegible], and take home [illegible] recipes. Sundays, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Continues through June 24. Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797. EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

Prepared in the Bay Area: How to Drink Like a Locavore A discussion and tasting of local booze with Lance Winters, master distiller, St. George Spirits; [illegible], master distiller, Charbay Winery & Distillery; [illegible], proprietor and master [illegible] Spirits; and moderator Virginia Miller, food and drink writer, *SF Bay Guardian*. Wed., June 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m. $15-$30. 415-597-6700. CommonwealthClub.org. [illegible] Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-283-1353. LafayetteVeterans.org.

Donkey & Goat Winery Farmers Market BBQ With free tastings of new summer wines. Pizza [illegible] will have pizza for sale and live music by The [illegible]. Please RSVP. Sat., June 23, 1-4 p.m., free. LocalWineEvents.com/[illegible]. A Donkey and Goat Winery, 1340 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-868-9174. DonkeyAndGoat.com.

The Eatery Fridays, 6:30-11 p.m. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 2935 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Farm Fresh Choice Grand Re-Opening with fresh produce, cooking demonstration, [illegible] screenings, a smoothie bike, live music. Tue., June 26, 3-6 p.m. and 510-548-1134. Spiral Gardens Urban Garden Center, 2830 Sacramento St., Berkeley. 510-843-1307. SpiralGardens.org.

The Joy of Salsa Aficionado With samplings of forty jamaica, [illegible], free [illegible] salsas, followed by Japanese-style "soul food." Thu., June 21, 6-8 p.m., $40 plus tax and tip. [illegible] Oakland. 2251 Broadway, Oakland. 510-286-9406. [illegible]Oakland.com.

Inside the Brewery With Firehouse Brewing. Wed., June 27, 6 p.m., free. Beer Revolution, 464 3rd St., Oakland. 510-452-2337. BeerRevolution.com.

New York Bagel Education: An Evening with Schmendricks With a discussion about the origins and history of the modern bagel, how to recognize the good from the bad, the elements of an authentic New York bagel, and more, followed by a bagel dinner. Thu., June 21, 7 p.m., $25. Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen, 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-3354. SaulsDeli.com.

Sunday dinner with [illegible] at [illegible] Market Featuring house-made fresh ricotta and regional Sicilian Crudo of Sword fish with [illegible] chiles and lemon Contorno of sweet summer peppers with basil, live more. Sun., June 24, 5-8 p.m. $75. [illegible] 4283 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-863-3078. [illegible].com/[illegible]

"Tagine" Moroccan Pop-Up Night With Moroccan fare prepared by chef Zouhair Kanans. Every other Thursday, 6-10 p.m. [illegible] Cafe, 1920 Shattuck Ave., [illegible] by 510-845-2233. [illegible]Cafe.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible] Farmers Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

Albany Farmers' Market With local, seasonal produce and prepared foods. On Solano Avenue [illegible] San Pablo Avenue and Adams Street. Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m. Continues through Oct. 31. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

[illegible] Farmers' Market With locally grown free [illegible] fruit, vegetables, breads, prepared and more. Accepts WIC and EBT. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-535-6920. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-[illegible]-8900. UnityCouncil.org.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market The weekly market hosts more than 70 produce, prepared foods, and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 800-897-3276. SplashPad.org/farmersmarket. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. [illegible]

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market Featuring locally grown and produced foods from more than 35 farmers and food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 800-897-5276. AgricultureInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall Plaza, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4000. Ci.Hayward.CA.US.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a variety: fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier, bee products, fresh wild fish, fruits, and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, cheese, fresh pasta and seasonal [illegible]. The Market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 510-847-1801. KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Market Circle, off the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market With certified organic produce from J&P Organic Farm and a youth-led prepared food booth from the Purple Lawn Cafe. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-482-1880. FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel Urban Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and prepared foods. Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market.html. Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With breads, specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Arlington Medical Center Farmers' Market With produce and other products sold by more than ten vendors. Also [illegible] produce [illegible]. Accepts WIC and EBT. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. North Oakland Farmers' Market, Arlington Medical Center Parking Lot, Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Farmers' [illegible] produce, breads, [illegible] other organic foods, along with plenty of produce. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, gourmet [illegible], freshly baked bread, produce, cut flowers, produce, [illegible] market, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market With fresh, locally grown [illegible], live chickens, flowers, eggs, and other produce. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

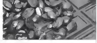
Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-6850. Ci.Berkeley.CA.US/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12700

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal produce, other fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and 510-[illegible]-8100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Featuring fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Youth-Led Farm Stand Seasonal produce from [illegible] Market and urban farm produce, along with bulk dry goods and nutritional products. At 10700 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Mondays, 3-6 p.m., free. FoodCommunityCulture.com.

PICK



Party for the Planet

Eat chocolate, [illegible], and cause. A grown-up chocolate tasting featuring the products of local purveyors Coco Delice, Bittersweet, and Chocolatl is part of Party for the Planet, a thirty-year anniversary fete and benefit for the Earth Island Institute at Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Thursday, June 21. VIP tickets grant access to even more food via a pre-party reception at Revival Bar & Kitchen (2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley), around the corner from Freight & Salvage. VIP reception 6:30 p.m., party 8 p.m.; regular tickets $64.50-$68.50; VIP tickets $250-$1,000. EarthIsland.org or 510-859-9100. — *Anneli Rufus*

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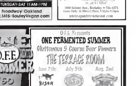
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MOVIES

APOCALYPSE BLAH

Losers find love (Seeking a Friend for the End of the World) and a lover gets lost (Lola Versus)

By Kelly Vance

The sorry and pity never let up in *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World*

Didn't we just see this movie? In *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World*, a giant asteroid named Matilda is streaking toward Earth and will destroy our planet. As we join the story there are only 21 days until impact and things are growing tense. Cell phone service has been shut off and all commercial airline flights cancelled. TV broadcasts are also winding down. People are just beginning to loot and murder indiscriminately, although some walk around anaesthetized, wearing their funniest clothes.

While all this is going on, lonely guy Dodge (played by Steve Carell) still reports to his job at the insurance company every day and then returns to his apartment, where his unaccountably cheerful housekeeper Elsa (Tonita Castro) is there to chirp to him about cleaning products. Dodge's wife has abruptly left him — probably heard about a good apocalypse party somewhere — and now, despite life on Earth coming to a rapid conclusion, his friends are busy throwing dinner parties and trying to fix him up with women. In vain. Dodge doesn't want a date for the cataclysm, he's fine just sitting by himself.

All of a sudden up pops a sobbing neighbor from the floor below, Penny (Keira Knightley). Her method for dealing with the end of days is to curl up and sleep. The thought appeals to us as well, but we keep watching as Penny and Dodge tentatively at first relate to each other over codeine cough syrup and a cute pooch named Sorry.

Sorry is indeed the word for actress-turned-filmmaker Lorene Scafaria's screenplay, which melds the most maudlin tendencies of both disaster movies and losers-in-love stories. Dodge and Penny form a bond and embark on a road trip. No stone is left unturned. Dodge yearns to reunite with his ex, if only to tell her how much he still loves her. For this Carell puts on his "kick me hard, please" expression — there's a definite air of Ben Stiller about him. Penny, similarly unlucky in romance, knows she will die without seeing her folks in England again. She clutches her collection of regrettable vinyl LPs — Herb Alpert, Scott Walker, Bee Gees — to her bosom like a talisman. Not one of Knightley's best outings, but she's able to at least make Penny's helpless cuteness pay off. With Carell, the end threatens to arrive with half a whimper.

They run into a philosophical dude in a pickup truck (William Petersen) and one of Penny's exes (Derek Luke) in a bomb shelter. They discover religion by the ocean. We fully expect them to die in each other's arms like those old folks in *Titanic*, wrapped in a cocoon of nostalgia and calmly awaiting the end. The third act drags measurably.

But there is one genuinely funny scene amid the tears — when the happy couple wanders into Friendsy's restaurant and finds not survivalists, but stoned clowns. *Seeking a Friend* establishes a record for the saddest movie with the most dope-smoking scenes. There's also a sharp cameo with comic Patton Oswalt (*Big Fan*), at a party, fantasizing about sex. When Dodge and Penny finally get around to it, their act of love is intended to cause sniffles. The sorrow and the pity never let up. Even if there weren't really only 21 days left until the world goes kablooey, you wouldn't want to waste your precious time watching this.

Seeking a Friend for the End of the World

Written and directed by Lorene Scafaria. With Steve Carell and Keira Knightley. Opens Friday.

Lola Versus

Directed by Daryl Wein. With Greta Gerwig. Opens Friday.

When we last saw Greta Gerwig, she was negotiating the shoals of Whit Stillman's *Damsels in Distress* in the role of a sort of unapproachable Vestal Virgin of political correctness at an Eastern university. The part didn't exactly suit her and neither did the director's self-conscious, epigrammatic dialogue. But we could see that Gerwig and her character Violet Wister took some pleasure in the pure poetry of Stillman's lines, as well as in the academic setting — the Sacramento native reportedly graduated magna cum laude from Barnard College.

Now, with Daryl Wein's *Lola Versus*, it's plain to see the 28-year-old actress is being run through a more or less typical Hollywood gauntlet of situations and motifs as she works her way up from mumblecore. Compared to the laid-back, fashionably vague young women she played in *Hannah Takes the Stairs*, *Baghead*, and *Greenberg*, the title character of *Lola Versus* seems overly homogenized. In fact, actor-turned-filmmaker Wein's follow-up to *Breaking Upwards* is utterly, completely predictable, with conventional TV sitcom rhythms and routines. Yet we can't take our eyes off Lola.

Terminal romantic Lola, 29 and holding, has just been disdainfully dumped at the altar by her commitment-phobic boyfriend Luke (Joel Kinnaman), so she does what any self-respecting rom-com female Manhattanite is supposed to do: binge eats, sleeps around, listens to the bad advice of her friends Alice (co-writer Zoe Lister-Jones) and Henry (Hamish Linklater), and when everything else fails, sings forties and pole-dances. One nice touch here — Lola's master's dissertation is on the use of silence in the poetry of Mallarmé. What a splendidly gratuitous joke. But that is counterbalanced by Lola's over-reliance on her fumbling, hovering parents, played by Bill Pullman and Debra Winger.

Laughs can happen along every few minutes, most of them horrible. She has meaningless sex with a person architect, then a fish salesman. Someone puts on Ani DiFranco during sex. Her trend-o girlfriend Alice suggests increasingly absurd remedies. Hypnotherapy rears its head. Actress-writer-exec-producer Ms. Lister-Jones — teaming up again with Wein as in *Breaking Upwards* but letting Gerwig carry the lead this time — seems to be a major part of the problem with *Lola Versus*, but in the long run it's like trying to accurately assign the blame for the Great Recession. Everyone does at least something harmful.

There has been no greater test of Gerwig's essential charisma, but she overcomes. Barely. In any other movie, the pratfall in high heels onto her bridal bouquet in the last shot would be a cruel and inappropriate trick to play on an actress. For Gerwig, it's a left-handed tribute to her appeal as an intelligent but self-deprecating comic presence perfectly willing to tumble down stairs to make a point. The challenge for her is to decide what points are worth making. Like her character, Gerwig finally emerges bruised but resilient at the end. So it's not a total loss. ■

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), David Schwader (D.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter An, uh, reimagination of the life of our sixteenth president, in which Lincoln discovers that vampires are [illegible] to take over the United States and takes it upon himself to hunt them. Directed by Timur Bekmambetov, [illegible] by Seth Grahame-Smith from his novel of the same name; starring Benjamin Walker, Rufus Sewell, and Dominic Cooper. (105 min.)

Brave Pixar's big [illegible] [illegible], this time around [illegible] on a [illegible] princess who is trying to [illegible] her kingdom. Directed by Mark Andrews, Brenda Chapman, and Steve Purcell; [illegible] by Andrews, Chapman, Purcell, and Irene Mecchi; with voices by Emma Thompson and Kelly Macdonald. (100 min.)

Lola, August 31st At the first moment we meet 34-year-old Anders ([illegible]) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Drieu La Rochelle's 1931 novel *Le Feu Follet* [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] away from the drug treatment [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] (95 min.) (K.V.)

Seeking a Friend for the End of the World See this week's review. (101 min.)

Where Do We Go Now? The Lebanese [illegible] [illegible] about the [illegible] setting in which [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Labaki [illegible] it off with style. The Muslim and [illegible] men in the isolated village are always on the point of killing each other, so the village women have learned to [illegible] the men's [illegible] [illegible] in various ingenious ways. [illegible] the [illegible] newscasts on the town's only TV set [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a troupe of Ukrainian strippers as a distraction. Writer-director-actor Labaki plays the [illegible] Christian woman [illegible] Amale who [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] feel of the [illegible] is [illegible] as in Labaki's 2007 *Caramel*, the story of a Beirut beauty shop, [illegible] with the added dimension of giving the village [illegible] the moral high ground by making them the peacemakers. Five [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Claude the Moussambos as Takla and Julien Farhat as [illegible] (110 min.) (K.V.)

ONGOING

Battleship So it's [illegible] — and [illegible] — the [illegible] board game [illegible] and following a group of ships that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Directed by Peter Berg, written by [illegible] and Jon Hoeber, and starring Alexander Skarsgård, Brooklyn Decker, and Liam Neeson. (131 min.)

Bel Ami [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Pattinson [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] up from the *Twilight* [illegible] in this [illegible] husbands. Pattinson's weakness as an actor is all the more glaring when compared to his supporting players, including Uma Thurman, Christina Ricci, Kristin Scott Thomas, and Colm Meaney. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] basic rules of [illegible]. A [illegible] of a [illegible] [illegible] must not itself be [illegible]. (102 min.) (K.V.)

Bernie [illegible] Jack Black [illegible] [illegible] and filmmaker Richard Linklater [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] with this comic character study, a [illegible] [illegible] of East [illegible]

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Texas Noir in a true-crime wrapper. Situated in the little town of Carthage is gossiping home-folk, their beloved Amiable director, native and funeral director Bernie Tiede (Black). But beloved the best home and treated all the meanest old rich lady in town, Marjorie Nugent (Shirley MacLaine), and the tongues really start wagging when Marjorie mysteriously disappears. Black, MacLaine, and Matthew McConaughey (as the gung-ho local DA) all revel in their parts, and the crowning [illegible] is Linklater's decision to let the townsfolk (played by a mixture of actors and amateurs) play themselves as a native chorus of sorts. Director Linklater (*The School of Rock*, *Before Sunrise*, *Me and Orson Welles*) and cowriter Skip Hollandsworth just stand 'em up and let 'em go, and they're wonderful. The comparison with *Fargo* is apt, points that [illegible] Bernie [illegible], deeply into his home state [illegible], with *Slacker* and *Dazed and Confused*. Stick around for the end credits to see [illegible] sing the song "Bernie, What Have You Done?" A winner. (104 min.) (KV)

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel Ensemble comedy about a bunch of Britons who relocate to spend their retirement in India. Directed by John Madden; adapted by Ol Parker from the novel *These Foolish Things* by Deborah Moggach; starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith, Dev Patel, and Tom Wilkinson. (124 min.)

A Cat in Paris French-language animated comedy about a young Parisian girl whose cat leads her into a mystery. Directed by Jean-Loup Felicioli and Alain Gagnol; written by Gagnol, with the voices of [illegible] Salomone. (70 min.)

Chernobyl Diaries Horror film about a bunch of tourists at the site of the infamous nuclear disaster. Directed by Bradley Parker; written by Oren Peli, Carey Van Dyke, and Shane Van Dyke; starring Jesse McCartney, Jonathan Sadowski, Devin Kelley, and Olivia Taylor Dudley. (83 min.)

Chimpanzee Disney-produced nature doc about Oscar, a chimpanzee. Directed by Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield, and narrated by Tim Allen.

Crooked Arrows Drama about a Native American lacrosse team squaring off with its prep-school rivals for a title. Directed by Steve Rash; written by Brad Riddell and Todd Baird; starring Brandon Routh and Gil Birmingham. (105 min.)

Dark Shadows America's last and threadbare soap-opera vampire, Barnabas Collins (Johnny Depp) at his loosest, wakes up in 1972 after [illegible] to remedy with something even stranger than the [illegible] of the beloved [illegible]. Burton-Tim Burton's ghoulish horror comedy [illegible] going twists well in the first act; he and the cast have an ungodly amount of fun playing [illegible] square [illegible] playing an array of wildly [illegible]. Chief among them is Eva Green as witch Angelique, vengeful victim of Barnabas' unrequited love — but there's also the family matriarch (Michelle Pfeiffer), a randy shrink (Burton stalwart Carter), the virginal nanny (Bella Heathcote) and Chloë Grace Moretz as the vamp's [illegible]. Beloved Burton and his usual crew — DP Bruno Delbonnel, production designer Rick Heinrichs, et al. — [illegible] in the goofy [illegible] and Seth Grahame-Smith's screenplay (from a story by [illegible] with John August, adapted from the TV series by Dan Curtis) [illegible]. Also with Jackie Earle Haley as Willie the caretaker and Christopher Lee, perfect as a grizzled old sea captain. (113 min.) (KK)

The Dictator So now Sacha Baron Cohen's "funny foreigner" shtick (*Borat*, *Bruno*) should be utterly familiar to audiences. The sticky [illegible] purposes. So his merciless lampoon of an Arab despot named Admiral General Aladeen has lost its surprise [illegible] before anyone even saw it — [illegible], since [illegible] a few sardonic comedy points in the last quarter. Deposed Middle East tyrant Aladeen gets lost on a state trip to New York City, falls in love with a [illegible] food-store manager (Anna Faris, brilliantly) and [illegible] their day [illegible] other young-adult-male comedy heroes. That's why Cohen is king of the [illegible] close-up, and also why the movie [illegible] after the sheik [illegible]. Written by Cohen, Alec Berg, David Mandel, and Jeff Schaffer, and directed by Larry Charles; with Ben Kingsley and John C. Reilly. A weapon of mass [illegible]. (83 min.) (KV)

Elena Contemptuous, [illegible] directed beloved style. A rich, stingy oldman (Andrey Smirnov) who's preparing to write his will has dissatisfied wife and former nurse the title character (Nadezhda Markina); Elena's no-good, sponging son (Alexey Rozin) and his beloved family; the old man's bitter daughter, who seems to trust no one (Yelena Lyadova). Taut and tense and chilled, with a [illegible] layer of Philip Glass music score [illegible] by director Andrey Zvyagintsev (*The Return*), [illegible] by Oleg Negin, [illegible] anyone with a patient, [illegible] beneath the beloved. (109 min.) (KV)

First Position Documentary following six young ballet dancers as they ready for the Youth America Grand Prix, a prestigious ballet competition. Directed by Bess Kargman. (90 min.)

The Five-Year Engagement Judd Apatow-produced romantic comedy about a young couple in the house

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...ts if you [illegible] a five-year engagement. Directed by [illegible] Stoller, written by Stoller and Jason Segel, starring Segel, Emily Blunt, and [illegible]

Girl in Progress Comedy-drama about a single mom [illegible] her daughter, the job, and the [illegible]. Directed by Patricia Riggen, written by [illegible] as the [illegible] girl. (93 min.)

Hysteria In Victorian London circa 1880, a young doctor named [illegible] Granville (Hugh Dancy) [illegible] the world's first "vibrator," as a means of [illegible] his female patients' "[illegible]." But the intelligent [illegible] daughter, a feminist [illegible] (Maggie Gyllenhaal) [illegible]. Under the direction of Tanya Wexler, the screenplay [illegible] by writers Stephen Dyer, Jonah Lisa Dyer, and Howard Gensler [illegible] gets just the right combination of character-[illegible] laughs and social import, with sterling character [illegible] by [illegible] Pryce, Felicity Jones, Rupert Everett, and Sheridan Smith as [illegible] Londoners. [illegible] (95 min.) (KV)

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I Wish Hirokazu Kore-eda [illegible] the [illegible] and the wonderful *Nobody Knows*, [illegible] young brothers [illegible] comedians Koki and [illegible] Maeda [illegible] by their [illegible] *Stand By Me*, [illegible] between the brothers and their [illegible] together on their "magical" [illegible]. (128 min.) (KV)

The Intouchables Take the basic premise of *Driving Miss Daisy* and move it to contemporary Paris. Change Miss Daisy into a rich, quadriplegic white man (François Cluzet). [illegible] a tough African immigrant from the housing [illegible] (Omar Sy). [illegible] (112 min.) (KV)

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted Third installment in the animated [illegible] series, [illegible] by Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath, and Conrad Vernon [illegible] with [illegible] Stiller, Chris Rock, [illegible] Schwimmer, and Sacha Baron Cohen.

Mansome Another lightweight Morgan Spurlock documentary. The maker of *Super Size Me* and *The Greatest Movie Ever Sold* [illegible] modern male grooming, [illegible] (KV)

Marvel's The Avengers Exactly the sum of its parts. Another Robert Downey [illegible] (Iron Man), Mark Ruffalo (The Incredible Hulk), and Scarlett Johansson (Black Widow) [illegible] Joss Whedon's dialogue and [illegible] (co-written with Zak Penn, [illegible] Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's comic [illegible] Loki (Tom Hiddleston) [illegible] Also with Jeremy Renner (Hawkeye), Samuel L. Jackson (Nick Fury), Chris Evans (Captain America), Chris Hemsworth (Thor), and the lovely Gwyneth Paltrow as Tony "Iron Man" Stark's [illegible] Pepper Potts. Now if they could only figure out a way to get Spider-Man into the mix. (142 min.) (KV)

Men in Black 3 [illegible] Agent J (Will Smith) [illegible] back to 1969 [illegible] Agent K (Tommy Lee Jones). [illegible] Michael Stuhlbarg [illegible] Emma Thompson as MIB chief Agent O, [illegible] Nicole Scherzinger as Boris' [illegible] by Barry Sonnenfeld, [illegible] Etan Cohen, [illegible] adapted from a comic book by Lowell Cunningham. (106 min.) (KV)

[illegible] Live-action adaptation of *Snow White*, starring Lily Collins in the eponymous [illegible] and Julia Roberts as her evil queen, directed by Tarsem Singh [illegible]

[illegible] starring [illegible].

Moonrise Kingdom From the [illegible] of the Wes Anderson sensibility (The Darjeeling Limited, The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou) comes the tale of Suzy (Kara Hayward) and Sam (Jared Gilman), a pair of precocious teenage runaways who give everyone in the New England [illegible] of New Penzance a [illegible]. [illegible] Bill Murray, Frances McDormand, [illegible] Willis, Tilda Swinton, Jason Schwartzman, [illegible] Keitel, and Bob Balaban [illegible] for Anderson. (93 min.) (KV)

Peace, Love & Misunderstanding Comedy about an uptight New York lawyer who [illegible] her family [illegible]. Directed by Bruce Beresford. [illegible] by Joseph Muszynski and Christina Mengert. Starring Jane Fonda, Catherine Keener, and [illegible]. (96 min.)

The Pirates! Band of Misfits The inept "Pirate Captain" (voice of Hugh Grant) [illegible], so he and his crew [illegible] Charles Darwin (David Tennant) and Queen Victoria (Imelda Staunton), in [illegible] for the Pirate of the Year [illegible]. [illegible] with Salma Hayek, [illegible] Jeremy Piven, and Brian Blessed. [illegible] Adventure with Scientists. (87 min.) (KV)

Prometheus (R) In 2093, on a distant planet, where a space ship full of scientists has gone to investigate the origins of life on Earth, problems arise. [illegible] Ridley Scott's [illegible] entertaining sci-fi spectacle [illegible] they bear a strong resemblance of Scott's [illegible] Alien. [illegible] Charlize Theron, Idris Elba, Logan Marshall-Green, and especially Michael Fassbender as [illegible]. Screenplay by Jon Spaihts and Damon Lindelof. (124 min.) (KV)

Rock of Ages The [illegible] of a new girl in late-1980s Hollywood [illegible] Julianne Hough and her [illegible] boyfriend (Diego Boneta) [illegible] Adam Shankman, who also directed the screen musical version of Hairspray. [illegible] Alec Baldwin and Russell Brand [illegible] the Bourbon Club [illegible] Paul Giamatti in the role of a [illegible] Tom Cruise as [illegible] Catherine Zeta-Jones as the mayor's wife [illegible]. Screenplay [illegible] (123 min.) (KV)

Safety Not Guaranteed [illegible] Aubrey Plaza [illegible] Jake M. Johnson, and [illegible] Karan Soni [illegible] Mark Duplass [illegible] Sundance [illegible]. Screenplay by Derek Connolly; directed by Colin Trevorrow. (94 min.) (KV)

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen An oil sheikh [illegible] Scotland [illegible] Emily Blunt [illegible] Ewan McGregor [illegible] Kristin Scott Thomas [illegible]. (110 min.) (KV)

Snow White & the Huntsman Action-fantasy take on the Brothers Grimm fairytale. Directed by Rupert Sanders, written by Evan Daugherty, John Lee Hancock, and Hossein Amini; starring Kristen Stewart, Charlize Theron, and Chris Hemsworth. (127 min.)

Something From Nothing: The Art of Rap Documentary about rap music [illegible]. Directed by Ice-T and Andy Baybutt, with appearances by Afrika Bambaataa, [illegible]. (106 min.)

Sound of My Voice An [illegible] of how [illegible] with a good script, a few actors, and almost nothing else. A pair of investigative video reporters (Christopher Denham and Nicole Vicius) infiltrate a [illegible] cult [illegible] around a [illegible] young woman (Brit Marling from Another Earth) who [illegible] a time traveler from 2054 [illegible]. The screenplay, by [illegible] Marling and Zal Batmanglij, [illegible] (85 min.)

That's My Boy Comedy about a former teen [illegible] (Adam Sandler) who [illegible] with his son (Andy Samberg). Directed by Sean Anders, [illegible] and starring Leighton Meester.

Tabloid Diary [illegible] documentary [illegible] Bangladesh [illegible] (KV)

Your Sister's Sister Your Sister's Sister focuses on a [illegible] with great charm and clarity [illegible] directed by Lynn Shelton [illegible] Mark Duplass [illegible]. (90 min.) (D.S.)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (95 min., 1964) [illegible] (UA Berkeley 7, [illegible] 7:00)

Hollywood to Dollywood (85 min., 2011) Frameline 36 (Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, [illegible] 7:00)

The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit (152 min., 1956) With Agreeable Peck. Gregory Peck's [illegible] Gregory Peck: An Agreeable Gentleman (PFA, 7:00)

Gentleman (Pacific Film Archive, [illegible] 7:00)

Wanderers [illegible] With [illegible] Classical Street Cinema (45th St. and Telegraph Ave. [illegible] 8:45)

The Wise Kids (91 min., 2011) Frameline 36 (Elmwood, 9:30)

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

[illegible] (160 min., 2012) With editor Carlos Clayton [illegible] and cinematographer [illegible] The Art and Craft of Cinema, Editor Carlos Clayton (PFA, 6:30)

Hero (100 min., 2002) With editor Carlos Clayton [illegible] The Art and Craft of Cinema, Editor Carlos Clayton (PFA, 7:00)

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

Fallen Sparrow (94 min., 1943) One-Two Punch: [illegible] Mickey Spillane, [illegible] (PFA, 6:30)

In a Lonely Place (94 min., 1950) One-Two Punch: [illegible] Hughes, Mickey Spillane, [illegible] (PFA, 8:30)

Monty Python and the Holy Grail (91 min., [illegible]) Rialto [illegible] (Elmwood, 12:00)

Yellow Submarine (90 min., 1968) (Elmwood, [illegible])

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Films of [illegible] Dorsky: Devotional Songs (84 min. total running time, 2003-6). With three short films, plus the filmmaker in person. [illegible] Three Nights with Nathaniel Dorsky (PFA, 7:30)

Of Human Bondage (83 min., 1934) (Berkeley Underground Film Society, [illegible] St., Berkeley, 7:30)

To Kill a Mockingbird (129 min., 1962) With an introduction by [illegible] a theater adaptation of the story. Gregory Peck: An Agreeable Gentleman (PFA, 4:40)

MONDAY, JUNE 25

One Man, Two Guvnors (180 min., 2012). London's National Theatre live (Rialto Cinemas Cerrito, El Cerrito, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

[illegible] (144 min., 1949) Gregory Peck: An Agreeable Gentleman (PFA, 7:00)

The Tempest (2012) [illegible] Shakespeare [illegible] Live (Cerrito, 7:00)

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MADAGASCAR (PG) (35mm 2D)
DAILY (12:30) 2:45, 5:00 7:15 9:15
PROMETHEUS 3D (R)
DAILY (2 projector 3D) 1:30, 7:30, 10:00
DAILY (Digital 2D) 4:30
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ROCK OF AGES
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[illegible] Show [illegible]
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(3:00) 7:15 9:15 [illegible]
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A Staggering Work Of [illegible]
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(5:00) 7:00 9:00 NR
[illegible]
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SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED (R)
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SEEKING A FRIEND FOR THE END OF THE WORLD (R)
[illegible]
PEACE, LOVE & MISUNDERSTANDING (R)
[illegible]
THE DICTATOR (R)
[illegible]
MEN IN BLACK 3 (PG-13)
[illegible]
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FILLING IN THE SPACE GHOST

A promising local producer consolidates his career.

By Will Butler

Meet Sudi Wachspress. Have him repeat his name a few times, then spell it. Hang around long enough and he'll tell you that there's pretty much no other name like it, for obvious and not-so-obvious reasons. The surname is Jewish; after the Holocaust, he said, there were very few Wachspresses left. But these days Wachspress is better known by a different moniker, albeit one that's a little more run-of-the-mill: his producer handle, Space Ghost.

On a recent Friday evening, Space Ghost was mixing a new song, his studio monitors projecting the drums out the window of his attic room on 38th Street in Oakland. His room sits at the top of a dark staircase and looks cramped, with slanted ceilings and electronics stacked on a small shelf. Space Ghost spends his days in the summer doing maintenance work at the California College of the Arts campus, where he's been going to school for three years. On this particular day, a Brooklyn label called Astro Nautico was releasing his debut LP. However, he spent most of the day painting fences. He was tired from working out in the sun, but when he got home, he was back to making beats, as always.

A few years ago, Space Ghost wasn't doing much more than experimenting with sounds, mostly using Ableton Live, the powerful German-built sampling and sequencing software. His first foray into making beats came together in a digital package of eleven songs, which he simply called *Wallflower*. He ran his own humble publicity. Wachspress would find himself on a couch at a party, instinctively plugging in his iPod and sandwiching a few of his own tunes between his favorite artists. "Who's this?" people would ask. The honest answer: "Space Ghost."

Word of mouth amounts to a slow build, though. A few downloads here and there from MediaFire, a Twitter handle, and a Bandcamp profile gave Space Ghost an official presence, and then in April 2010, *The Fader* wrote a glowing few paragraphs about *Wallflower* out of the blue.

"I still don't really know how they found me," Space Ghost said, chuckling uneasily. "I even e-mailed the writer to say thanks and he didn't respond ... but I think they thought I was, like, some big deal in Oakland, and that somehow they had missed [the reality]."

Wachspress is stoic, with a uniquely placid confidence — anxious undercurrents only emerge in wisps. Ask him about school or work, and he doesn't have much to say. Ask him about how to isolate a drum hit, though, and he's off and rolling.

Space Ghost has become a master of the creeping beat.

The positive press helped Space Ghost's name recognition but otherwise didn't produce tangible benefits. More than anything, it made Space Ghost take his productions more seriously. *Wallflower* was good, but his next few EPs, which he made available for free, were exponentially more absorbing.

"I don't think I'd be working at it so hard if I hadn't gotten that recognition early on," he admitted, still gazing at Ableton's sequencer and flipping through old songs. If he's near technology, odds are he's thinking about making music, and it seems unlikely that he ever shuts down his computer.

"I basically carry my laptop everywhere with me, and whenever I have a chance I work on stuff — at school, on the bus, wherever."

When you hear his new LP, *You're There*, it's hard to believe that any of it could have been composed on AC Transit. The songs are completely antithetical to an East Bay bus ride: There's no pavement, no abrupt starts and stops, and no gravity, even.

Space Ghost has become a master of the creeping beat. A derivative equation would go something like: Toro Y Moi meets Chopped & Screwed over production techniques of equal parts Los Angeles and the UK. He loves water sounds: when it rains he takes his microphone outside and records it. Much of *You're There* sounds like a rainforest on another planet, where animal chirps are bizarre and unidentifiable, the trees are looming exotic varietals, and the only familiar element is dense, swirling moisture.

Show Details
At F4CGallery (1526 Webster St., Oakland) on Friday, July 6, 7 p.m. free. FamousFourColors.org.

But Space Ghost is the first to admit that there's no real nailed-down "Space Ghost" sound. He has a hard time listening to *Wallflower* and subsequent releases such as *Pyramid Dreams* and *FSCK*. "When I finished *Pyramid Dreams*, I tried to go back and make more stuff like it, but I couldn't. I'm just in a totally different place now."

The sound he's arrived at with *You're There*, though, feels like an arrival, and a proper debut. "It's definitely the most cohesive thing I've ever done," he said proudly. The album is sprinkled with a new format for Space Ghost — more ambient adventures without a clear verse-chorus structure. If you're into adjusting music to appease a certain mood, tracks like "No Phone" will hit the spot.

Space Ghost wears his influences on his sleeve, and he's not afraid to admit when he's getting inspiration from artists such as James Blake, Shlohmo, or Mount Kimbie. In fact, once you get him talking, he'll show you that those artists are actually ingrained in the DNA of his music.

To illustrate, he opened a track by Mount Kimbie on his computer. "Almost all the synth sounds on the album are taken from this one song," he said. He played the first three seconds — a single tone — and paused.

"Yeah, I just used that one little blip and turned it into my own synth for like 70 percent of the album," he explained. Indeed, *You're There* holds together so nicely because Space Ghost is using a few discrete sounds in wildly different ways, pitching them up and down, mixing and matching effects and patterns, and augmenting the tracks with his own voice.

If you didn't pay close attention you might not realize that Space Ghost is a singer, too. In fact, the vocals on such tracks as "Sneaky/Sensual" are almost all his. He favors multi-tracking to get a smooth, full sound. When asked if he'll do more singing, he paused for a long time. "I'm working on a new project actually with my friend Avery, but we're just trying to get more tracks together right now." The Avery he's referring to goes by AHYVE, a standout member (along with Space Ghost) of a tight but prolific Bay Area urban art collective called Oktank Family.

Space Ghost pulls up a few files. He plays the first track, a song he produced featuring his vocals and Avery's rapping. AHYVE is an idiosyncratic rapper and fun to listen to, especially when pitched down a few steps the way Space Ghost prefers. Space Ghost's vocals are superlative. That's not obvious when you meet the real-life Sudi Wachspress. He's a quiet guy who spends a lot of time in an attic. Perhaps the name "Space Ghost" is apropos after all. ●

Will.Butler@EastBayExpress.com

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THE RISE OF THE HAMMOND B3

Friday's show proved that organs make viable cafe music, and cafes make viable nightlife

By Rachel Swan

Scott Amendola and Wil Blades

Wil Blades has long embraced the notion that organ duos can make viable cafe music, even if they require an unusually long — and even if the old, rich, churchy Hammond B3 sound is a bit of an acquired taste. Blades, who is 33 and Calvin Klein-ad-worthy good looking, has no problem being a torchbearer. Moreover, he's well accustomed to schlepping his own Hammond around on a dolly, complete with foot pedals and a Leslie speaker (an amplifier with a rotating speaker that creates tremolo and vibrato effects). Ask him to enumerate parts of the organ and he'll do it with all the ardor of a rock musician gushing about his Fender Telecaster. Ask him about the Hammond's [illegible] connection to its distant cousin, the pipe organ, and he could have your ear for the evening.

Blades started playing lunchtime sets at Awaken Cafe a few years ago, accompanied by guitarist Jack Riordan. Now he's regaling the after-dinner crowd at the cafe's new location alongside drummer Scott Amendola. The two musicians are both heavy-hitters in the rarefied East Bay. Amendola plays with Mike Patton and Charlie Hunter; Blades tours with Billy Martin. But last Friday, they lent their talents to transform a downtown coffee shop into a swanky jazz venue.

That wasn't lost on Awaken Cafe's night manager Oliver Greenlaw, who seemed exultant when he introduced the duo. "Are you ready for the future of jazz?" he asked a crowd of about forty, strewn about the room on bar stools and folding chairs. The audience members varied widely: There were stylish young women, couples on dates, and a man with a rubber fish sticking out of his breast pocket. The bartenders wore rumpled sweaters and sported sleeve tattoos; the tables bore vases with sunflowers. Everyone applauded — Greenlaw's enthusiasm was contagious.

Blades sat at his Hammond and pounded out the intro line to Thelonious Monk's "Nutty," the first of several standards that he and Amendola would play that night. They bowed to the original form, combining a loose swing rhythm with solos that never strayed too far from the melody of the tune. Dusk was settling outside, and for a moment, at least, Blades' organ was swaddled in blue twilight. Customers craned their necks and swiveled in their chairs to watch. The rubber fish guy looked bedazzled.

Blades and Amendola have been collaborating since 2003 and performing in duo form since 2006. They mix tunes from the American Songbook with originals — that night's set included several from Duke Ellington's *Far East Suite*, Amendola's "Lima Bean" and "Blues for Istanbul," and Blades' "Mae Mae" — tailoring everything for an ultra lean setup. Though some tunes featured meaty chords and extravagant melody lines, the musicians tended to emphasize the raw elements: drum solos that started on the rim of a snare, organ bass lines that had the satisfying *thwunk* of a Seventies funk band — songs that could amplify gradually but end on a diminuendo. Blades used his Leslie speaker for dramatic effect, but his improvisations were never too gaudy. Amendola, who occasionally uses pots and pans to enhance his recordings, sounded more like a traditional jazz drummer in this outfit.

Drum-organ duos are somewhat unusual but certainly not unheard of, and they have a lineage in the jazz world, Blades said. The first he can recall is organist Larry Young and drummer Elvin Jones, who recorded a two-piece version of "Monk's Dream" on the 1964 album *Unity*; the most famous might be Benevento/Russo, a Brooklyn-based band that launched in the early 2000s. Blades has actually been playing in duo format with various drummers in the Bay Area; his other project with drummer Billy Martin takes a similar template, though it's more funk- and groove-driven.

Whether or not a small spate of like-minded combos constitutes a "trend" is debatable; the larger point, for Blades, is that such things have enough audience appeal for local venues to take a chance on them. And their relationship appears to be mutually beneficial. Greenlaw said the cafe began booking live performances as a way to raise its own profile and become more of a go-to spot for nightlife. That's a vision that Awaken Cafe owner Scott Dunlap had when he opened the first iteration of the coffee shop on 14th Street.

But it's really come to fruition in the new digs, which are brighter and bigger, with walls that are tall enough to fit an art exhibition and exposed pipes on the ceiling. Dunlap hasn't really tweaked the acoustics for live music, but from Blades' perspective, it's perfectly serviceable.

In securing their new space, Dunlap and his staff became boosters of the local art and music scenes, including the ones that are trying to stave off doom. Greenlaw readily acknowledged that when he brought Blades and Amendola back onstage for an encore. "Charlie Hunter moved to New York because he thought jazz was dead in the East Bay," he announced, in the tone of a politician ready to launch a stump speech. He paused dramatically, allowing a few nettled jazz fans to boo and hiss. Amendola, who's a longtime Hunter collaborator, remained sensibly quiet.

But Greenlaw ended on a bright note. "I think these two have proved that jazz is alive and well," he said, gesturing to the two musicians. They dutifully launched into "Deep Eyes," a yet-unrecorded ballad that Amendola wrote for his daughter. They played it with the easy nonchalance of cafe musicians. ●

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NADIRS AND APEXES

Jazz that cooks, cathartic rock and the genius of Justin Bieber

The Cookers

Believe

With audiences for straight-ahead jazz dwindling, big-name artists are increasingly banding together to form all-star units like the SFJAZZ Collective and The Cookers. Even if these situations limit sideman opportunities for up-and-coming players, such bands of like-minded heavyweight veterans practically guarantee that the music they create will be nothing short of world-class.

Composed of trumpeters Eddie Henderson and David Weiss, alto saxophonist Craig Handy, tenor saxophonist Billy Harper, pianist George Cables, bassist Cecil McBee, and drummer Billy Hart, The Cookers borrow their name and instrumentation from *Night of the Cookers*, Freddie Hubbard's classic two-volume 1965 recordings for Blue Note. The present septet takes a similar post-bop, pre-fusion, high-energy approach with its repertoire. *Believe*, the group's third CD, features compositions by Cables, Harper, Hart, and McBee, along with an intensely boiling treatment of Wayne Shorter's "Free for All," the title track of one of Art Blakey's greatest Blue Note albums. Ensemble passages are tightly rendered throughout, but fireworks really fly during improvised solo passages by each of the players, particularly when Harper's molten-toned Texas tenor is bolstered by Hart's kicking drums.

Handy hails from Berkeley and preceded Joshua Redman in the Berkeley High Jazz Ensemble. Henderson and Cables were once highly valued participants in the Bay Area jazz scene. Those three's Yoshi's gig this week with The Cookers is a most welcome homecoming. (Motema)

— Lee Hildebrand

At Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland) June 20-21, 8 & 10 p.m. $20-$25. Yoshis.com

Fiona Apple

The Idler Wheel Is Wiser Than the Driver of the Screw and Whipping Cords Will Serve You More Than Ropes Will Ever Do

The Idler Wheel Is Wiser Than the Driver of the Screw and Whipping Cords Will Serve You More Than Ropes Will Ever Do is the second overblown album title for Fiona Apple, who's back after seven years of silence. And she's going to burn you out.

Take the intro to "Valentine": *You didn't see my Valentine? I sent it via pantomime / While you were watching someone else I stared at you and cut myself / That's all I'll do cuz I'm not free — a fugitive too dull to flee* and later: *I've made my peace / I'm dead / I'm done* ...

The songs are sad, but unlike the album title, perfectly wrought. Apple says she only writes new tunes when she needs the release, and that's comforting, because *The Idler Wheel* captures the sound of a person ripping out all of her hair over jazz stylings, and it's unlikely she has strong enough roots to produce something like this more often.

For all its pathos, the album is exciting. That owes to Apple's tight-lipped, teeth-gritted, at times bizarre inflection, her clear, front-and-center lyrics, her shouted multi-tracked choruses, and the experimental jazz rhythm section that shines despite its leanness — stand-up bass, brushes, found-sound clips of footsteps and machine loops, and best of all, the timpani. Each track is its own exertion, a battle that anyone would be well-advised to fight over and over. (Epic)

— Will Butler

Justin Bieber

Believe

Justin Drew Bieber swept his flawless hair out of his winsome eyes, stared off into the distance blithely, and marveled at his good fortune. *I am the king of the world!* he thought (without a trace of irony, as he is far too young to have seen *Titanic*). But it wasn't long before a dark thought began edging its way into his perfectly sculpted cranium, giving that tiny robot heart of his a little flutter. *How will I continue on my quest for world domination?* he asked himself, only the faintest hint of a furrowed brow crinkling across his otherwise-immaculate forehead. *Aha! I shall make an album with an abstractly inspirational title, load it with foolproof radio hits, and strategically ramp up the anticipation starting months early with the help of my vast army of minions. It's genius!* With a snap of a finger, it was done.

There's pretty much no point in even trying to parse the ups and downs — both of which are many, though to be honest, more of the former than the latter — of *Believe*, is there? If you like Justin Bieber, you will like this album. Hell, if you like Justin Bieber, you've probably already listened to this album at least a dozen of times since it came out on June 19. If you don't, this probably won't change your mind, though maybe it should. If *Believe* is admittedly a little predictable and occasionally mawkish to the point of self-parody, it's also sometimes startlingly well-crafted, with a bevy of brand-name guest stars, an undeniably ambitious spirit, and a more pronounced R&B sound than we've heard before from the Biebs. It's pop music at both its nadir and its apex, and to some ears, it is indeed genius. (Island Def Jam)

— Ellen Cushing

LOCAL LICKS

BY [illegible]

Sean O'Brien

Future Harvest

Though his voice sounds unnaturally high in the opener, Sean O'Brien is a capable rock singer and an excellent cobbler of lyrics. The subject in "River of Greed" wears a seersucker suit and sings about a crisis of faith; an article of clothing is besmirched in "The Dress of Turn Jane." While O'Brien's music seldom strays from a conventional rock template, it does have its moments — namely "A Thorny Path," which features strings by Magik*Magik Orchestra. (First Cold Press)

Robi Raw

California Hippie

There are 21 songs on Robi Raw's 2-disc homage to California hippies, some of which spread for as long as 17 minutes. Occasionally, Raw sings the notes of his chord changes ("Geeee eeeee aaaaaaa dddddd bbbbbb" in "People Unite Om Namah Siva Whirling Dervish"). He uses 1960s lingo (e.g., "pot" for "weed" and "Communitized" for, uh, the "ed" participle of the verb "community"). Best part is the fluorescent album jacket. (self-released)

Alison Faith Levy

World of Wonder

A kid would definitely be more qualified to review this children's album, but unfortunately, I don't have one available. So here goes nothing. In comparison to, say, Ashaba or Raffi, Alison Faith Levy has fairly astounding production values. Sometimes they're a hindrance — her version of "Itsy Bitsy Spider" is a little overwrought. But apparently her matinees at The Starry Plough Pub are quite entertaining — for kids, at least. (Mystery Lawn Music)

Mist and Mast

Follow a Bad Map

Mist and Mast started with a lone songwriter, Jason Lakis, who produced a large cache of songs and squirreled them away, hoping he'd eventually form a band to perform them. He did briefly, but it dissolved, so Lakis decided to go it alone on this album. He handled all the instruments and the production, save for one drum track and a few guitar lines. His lyrics are those of a solitary shut-in. His melodies are warm. (self-released) ●

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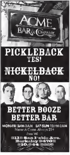

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EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Party For The Gospel with The Rock Collective (Greg Anton, Mark Karan, Lebo, Robin Sylvester), Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $24.50-$28.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Pharoah Sanders and The Dolphins featuring [illegible] Hadley, Eddie Henderson, David Weiss, Craig Handy, George Cables, Cecil McBee, and Billy Hart, Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $20-$22

[illegible] Dinner jazz with guest vocalist singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Skip Henderson and Starboard Ballad Quinn's Lighthouse, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible], Lucky 13, 8 p.m., free

Fred Healey great covers of classics, oldies, pop, & jazz, Peter's Restaurant, 8 p.m., free

DJ Wolverine plays Happy Hour Punk Piano [illegible], 5 p.m., free

Soft Cooker with [illegible], Pharoah Your Teeth, and Mass Nervous Systems, Lounge 3411, 8 p.m., free

The Spazmatics Dan's Irish Sports Bar, $5, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] with Moon To Sea, Appalachian Terror Unit, Is Dollars, and War Party, Gil's [illegible] Club, 8 p.m.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Chico Trujillo with La Mala Maria, The New Punch, 9 p.m., [illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Gospel Blues Band Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $15

HowellDevine with Aaron Leese & The Panhandlers, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m., $12, $13

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Trio live jazz, [illegible] Brothers, 1:30-11 p.m., free

Eddie Pasternak Trio with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible] Howard, 8:30 p.m.

The Abbott Brothers Le Colonial, 7-11 p.m., free

Stompy Jones San Francisco-based sextet performs hot jazz and blues, Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] 'N Beyond The Bellows, 4 p.m.

[illegible] with [illegible], Rickshaw Stop, 8:30 p.m., $13

The [illegible] with Pillars And Tongues, Joseph Childress, and Grace Cooper, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $7

Pharaoh with Destroyed In Seconds, [illegible], He Hunts, [illegible], and [illegible], Sub/Mission Gallery, 8 p.m., $13

[illegible] Red Devil Lounge, 9 p.m.

Lisa Hannigan with Joe Henry, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $20

Eddie [illegible] [illegible] Holler and The [illegible], Grant & Green, 9 p.m., free

The Younger Lovers with School Knights and Grandma's Boyfriend, Thee Parkside, 9 p.m., $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Heart with Ben the Vinyl Archaeologist (True Blues), The Independent, 8 p.m., $20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Mojito, 9:30 p.m., free

[illegible] Thursdays traditional music & dancing with [illegible] & Stephanie [illegible], Peña Pachamama, 8 p.m., $12

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FRIDAY 22

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Monterey Bay Blues Festival with Ronald Thompson, [illegible] & The New Stylistics, Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, Sounds of Philadelphia: The Jones Girls, [illegible] Greene, Charlie Musselwhite, Blues in the Schools Honor Band, Roy Tyler & New Directions, JJ Grey & Mofro, [illegible] Mission, Evelyn "Champagne" King, Ross Royce, and many more, Monterey County Fairgrounds, $35-$200

Steve Seskin with Liz Longley and Julia Sinclair, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22.50-$24.50

Classical & Opera

Free Noon Fridays Piedmont Center For The Arts, 7 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Appalachian Terror Unit with [illegible], Stork Club, 4 p.m., $4

[illegible] Dinner jazz with guest vocalist singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

B. Hamilton with Victory And Associates and more [illegible] Band, 8 p.m., $8

[illegible] with Vagabondage and Victoria & The Vaudevillians, Starry Plough, 8 p.m., $7-$10

The [illegible] with [illegible] & Honey: The Strikers, Radio Tower, Last Dog Blues, The Struts and Shake Me, [illegible], 7 p.m., $12-$15

Fred Healey piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz, & pop, Peter's Restaurant, 8 p.m., free

The [illegible] with Midnight Bombers and Ancient Sons, The Uptown, 9 p.m., $14

[illegible] with [illegible] and Synthetic [illegible], 1-2-3-4 Go Records, 8 p.m., $7

[illegible] with Cafeteria, [illegible], Cafe Bust, Side Effects, Stagger & Fall, [illegible], [illegible], and Decoders, 924 Gilman, 8 p.m., $13

[illegible] with [illegible] Blues [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] Club, 8 p.m., $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m., [illegible]

Sierra Nevada World Music Festival with [illegible], Luciano, [illegible] Johnson & The [illegible], Dub [illegible], Third World, Israel Vibration, The Twinkle Brothers, [illegible], Johnny Osbourne, Lutan Fyah, Romain Virgo, Fly, [illegible], Stone Love, [illegible], Sister Nancy, Prince Alla, Lovers, and more, Mendocino County Fairgrounds, $100 3-day pass

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m.-midnight, free

Larry McCray Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Trio live jazz, [illegible], 8-11:30 p.m., free

[illegible] Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mark, 9 p.m., $15

Eddie Pasternak Trio with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible] Howard, 8:30 p.m.

[illegible] Trio [illegible] & Kitchen [illegible], 5:30-8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] 'N Beyond The Bellows, 9 p.m.

[illegible] with Cigarette Burns, Courtney [illegible] The Crushers, and [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $7

Death To All with Gorguts, [illegible] and [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $29-$32

[illegible] with Chico Trujillo, Sub/Mission Gallery, 10 p.m., $15

[illegible] with Walker Brothers, [illegible] and Tyler Brown, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $10-$15

The Last Ambassadors CD release with Cash Pony and [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m., $10

The [illegible] with [illegible] and The [illegible], Slim's, 8 p.m., $11-$16

[illegible] with Sea Of Bees and [illegible], [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $12

The Spyrals with [illegible], [illegible], and The [illegible], Thee Parkside, 4 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] with [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., [illegible]

SATURDAY 23

EAST BAY

All Ages

15th Annual [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 11:30 a.m., free

Blues, Folk & Country

The [illegible] Brothers with [illegible], Greek Theatre, 8 p.m.

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe, 8 p.m., free

Larry Coryell with George Brooks: [illegible], Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., [illegible]

Monterey Bay Blues Festival with Ronald Thompson, [illegible] & The New Stylistics, Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, Sounds of Philadelphia: The Jones Girls, [illegible], Charlie Musselwhite, Blues in the Schools Honor Band, Roy Tyler & New Directions, JJ Grey & Mofro, [illegible] Mission, Evelyn "Champagne" King, Ross Royce, and many more, Monterey County Fairgrounds, $35-$200

[illegible] happy hour, Starry Plough, 5 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz & Joy Taste of Joy, 5:30 p.m., free

[illegible] Dinner jazz with guest vocalist singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Trio [illegible], 8 p.m., free

Kids

[illegible] de La Peña Saturday morning [illegible] a show with live music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m., $6, kids $5

Rock & Pop

Fred Healey piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz & pop, Peter's Restaurant, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] with The Cigarette [illegible] and The [illegible], Stork Club, 8 p.m., $5

The [illegible] with [illegible] and The [illegible], The Uptown, 9 p.m., $12-$14

[illegible] with Dying Fetus, Revoca-

PICKS

Rahsaan Patterson

There are singers, and then there are others, like Rahsaan Patterson, who are known as "singers' singers." Why else would divas such as Faith Evans, Rachelle Ferrell, Lalah Hathaway, and Ledisi have in the past volunteered their services as backup vocalists to the Bronx-born neo-soul singer-songwriter? He's one of the vocal wonders of the world, blessed with pliant pipes that soar, swoop, slide, and switch between a husky baritone and a lilting mezzo-soprano in the blink of an eye. "Miss You," a ballad on his current *Bleuphoria* CD, is a master class of overdubbed vocal virtuosity and his churchy call-and-response with Tata Vega on the disc's "Mountain Top" is similarly breathtaking. "If I had to sum him up in one word, I would call him 'uninhibited,'" Ledisi once stated. Patterson performs *Friday, June 22*, at Yoshi's (1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco), at 8 & 10 p.m., $20, $26. Yoshis.com — *Lee Hildebrand*

Joanna Newsom & Philip Glass

The partnership between Britt Govea's (FOLK YEAH!) production arm and the Henry Miller Memorial Library in Big Sur has proved to be a dynamic and fruitful ground zero for new indie-fringe acts and newly-emerging household names. Everyone from Animal Collective to Arcade Fire has performed at the library's wooded outdoor venue, and each year Govea helps throw the Woodsist Festival, a meeting-of-the-minds for the indie-folk eccentrics of West Coast music. The library's vibrant new music venue has thrived mostly on donations, such as the successful Kickstarter campaign that helped fund a new stage. This week's benefit event in San Francisco is one-of-a-kind, though. The harp-toting, Kate Bush-inspired folk prodigy Joanna Newsom will team up with world-famous minimalist composer Philip Glass, along with violinist Tim Fain. One of the biggest names in modern classical music, Glass requires little introduction. He'll be performing his own material and collaborating with Newsom on some of her songs. At The Warfield (982 Market St., San Francisco) on *Monday June 25*, 8 p.m., $60.50-$140. TheWarfieldTheatre.com — *Will Butler*

Rahsaan Patterson

THEESatisfaction

THEESatisfaction

Though their music relies on endlessly repeated sequences rather than fleshed-out, narrative melodies, singers-producers Stasia Irons and Catherine Harris-White still put their own stamp on the jazz and funk traditions that inform their duo, THEESatisfaction. They mix peppy, [illegible] raps with generously persuasive soul singing, often enhanced by two- and three-part harmonies. Their productions pair jazz and R&B chord voicings against the steady, odd clap rhythms of hip-hop. Most of it sounds clean and digitized, which helps bring out the human contours of the vocals. But unlike other pop outfits, this duo doesn't like everything to sound polished. THEESatisfaction's debut album, *awE naturalE*, juxtaposes groove-driven ear candy with tones that sound intentionally cold or metallic. "Sweat" and "Earthseed" are beautiful in a classical way; "Enchantruss," which features a rap cameo from Shabazz Palaces, is more jagged. Irons and Harris-White seem more interested in experimentation than the pleasure principle: their music probably won't be playing in an elevator anytime soon. But they've found favor with Sub Pop Records, which released their debut. THEESatisfaction plays The Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on *Friday, June 22*, with Le Vice, 9 p.m., $12, $14. IndependentSF.com — *Rachel Swan*

[illegible], Contrast The Band, [illegible], Family is Poet, Gary Busey, Amber Alert, Apothecary, Hounders, and Genghis Khan, Oakland Metro Operahouse, 7 p.m., $25

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-hop

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

All Night Milonga milonga class at 9:30 p.m., then party til dawn. The Beat, the Berkeley Performing Arts, 10:30 p.m., $15 includes class, $10 for just milonga

Sierra Nevada World Music Festival with Jimmy Cliff, Luciano, Linton Kwesi Johnson & the Dennis Bovell Dub Band, Third World, Israel Vibration, The Twinkle Brothers, I-Wayne, [illegible], Johnny Osbourne, Lutan Fyah, Romain Virgo, [illegible], Steve Love, Perfect, Katchafire, Sister Nancy, Prince Alla, Locura, and more. Mendocino County Fairgrounds, $180 3-day pass

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Carmel Cast [illegible] Saloon, 9-11 p.m., free

Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $20

Matteo di Matteo Italian folk music with [illegible], Caffe Trieste, 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ana Mandara Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara, 8-11:30 p.m., free

Eddie Pasternak Duo with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8-9 p.m., free

Georgia Mikababil Scott Howard, 8:30 p.m.

Thousand World Ball multimedia cabaret review, EnsoCenter, 8 p.m., $20

Rock & Pop

Rock Lion with The Skyfishes, My Parade and Sahale, Sub/Mission Gallery, 8 p.m.

Misshapes of Misfortune with [illegible] and With Hunt, Elbo Room, 9:30 p.m., $8-$10

Henry Hanuil with Pink Films, The Knockout, 9 p.m., $5

Hiker with [illegible], Modern Pets, and [illegible], Thee Parkside, 9 p.m., $8

Mark Gardener with Sky Harold, World Pictures, and DJ [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m., $12-$15

The New Pollution with The American Professionals, Thee Parkside, 3 p.m., free

Otis Heat with The Quick & Easy Boys and Cobbacola, Bottom of the Hill, 10 p.m., [illegible]

Princeton with Local Hero, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $25

Stripmall Architecture with Warm Soda and [illegible], The Independent, 9 p.m., $10-$12

Vans Warped Tour with Taking Back Sunday, All Time Low, The Used, New Found Glory, Streetlight Manifesto, Yellowcard, Pierce The Veil, Four Year Strong, Of Mice And Men, We The Kings, Breathe Carolina, Miss May I, Falling In Reverse, Anti-Flag, Every Time I Die, The Maine, Mayday Parade, [illegible], Memphis May Fire, Motionless In White, Rise To Remain, Sleeping With Sirens, The Ghost Inside, Vampires Everywhere, Title Fight, You Me At Six, Bayside, Senses Fail, [illegible], Polar Bear Club, We Are The In Crowd,

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World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Gonzalo with Tommy Guerrero and [illegible] Zambo. [illegible] 9 p.m. $10
Loco Por Locos with [illegible] Brick & Mortar Music Hall. 9 p.m., $8-$12

SUNDAY 24

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged Jupiter. 5 p.m. free
Fiddlers Jam Castro Valley United Lutheran Church. 1:30-5 p.m. free
The Lovesand Pat Nevins acoustic in the courtyard. The New Parish. 3 p.m. $45
Jimmy's All-Star Super Tuesdays Jimmy Scott & different blues band every week

Peter's Restaurant. 5 p.m. free
Larry Coryell with George Brooks' Earthworks. Yoshi's Oakland. 8 & 9 p.m. $20-$26
Monterey Bay Blues Festival with Elmore Thompson, Jr. & The New Stylistics, Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, Sounds of Philadelphia, The Jones Girls, Jackie Greene, Sheila Montefalco, Wem in the Outland Horse Band, Ray Tyler & New Jonsetta, JJ Grey & Mofro, Gaza Morton, Eryte "Champagne" King, Bobbi Royce and many more. Monterey County Fairgrounds. $35-$100
Sunday Morning Blues with Ray Bheer. Caffe Mediterraneum. 10 a.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

DJ Wallace jazz-inspired piano improvisations. Nexus Gypsy Café. 12:30 p.m., free
Jazz and R&B Night Donny's Locker. 7-10 p.m. free
The Goodham Jazz Quartet Nexus & contemporary jazz. Coffee Mill. 3-6 p.m. free

John Schott Actual Café. 5 p.m. free
Laugh Smash Cafe Van Kleef. 9 p.m.
The Randy Moore Trio Nieb's Lounge. 6:30-10 p.m. free
Tomorrow Reader Trio Music Americana & Bar. 6:30-9 p.m. free

More Listings Online
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Kids

Soggy Sneakers kids' series. Ashkenaz. 9 p.m. $4-$6

Rock & Pop

Dear Dinosaur Rhyme n Music and Guide. 2 p.m.
UGAS with [illegible] Dead, Launderoff, The Moth, and High & Tight. 524 Camden. 5 p.m. $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Sundays de Grazo Afro-Cuban rumba percussion & dance party. Café Valparaíso. 3:30-6:30 p.m. free
Blues Grass World Music Festival with Jimmy Cliff, Lucumi, Linton Kwesi Johnson & The Dennis Bovell Dub Band, Third World, Israel Vibration, The Grover Brothers, Yippee, J Boog, Johnny Zoddiak, Lucas Fyah, Grover Mojo Pip, David Rodigan, Three Love, Perfect, Kenichiro, Sister Nancy, Prince Alla, Lukaya, and more. Mendocino County Fairgrounds. $135 3-day pass

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

The Famous Thee Parkside. 4 p.m. free
Windy Maples with Blind Beaver. Café du Nord. 8:30 p.m. $10
Songwriter Sundays rotating World performers at the lounge. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 p.m.-midnight. $5
Terry Knowles Johnny Foley's Irish House. 8 p.m. free

Classical & Opera

Michael Johnson on Blues for Sunday champagne brunch. Top of the Mark. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. $60 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Brunch with Future Perfect & rotating guests. 1300 on Fillmore. 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $59 includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rock of the Bay Sunday cabaret series. Sirloin, 6 p.m. $20-$30 $65 [illegible]

and show
Kurt Elling Trio The Rightside. 7:30-10:30 p.m. free
Blues Lanman & Beaver featuring Beaver Straight, Sam Grebe-Hardy, & Mark Tomorrow. Boogaloo Saloon, 4:30-8:30 p.m. $8

Rock & Pop

Acoustic Perfection with X-Ok, BlackOut, 71 Disease and DJ Melting Old. 1964 Lounge. 8 p.m. $13, $20
Garbage The Independent. 8 p.m. $25, $27
Pokey Yale with Finglesun Girls, Moving, and Chef Summer. Hemlock Tavern. 9 p.m. $8
Lisa Loeb Fanday Slim's. 8 p.m. $22
The Mess Bruno's of the Hill. 9 p.m., $12-$15
Royal Headache with Wild Moth, Naomi Punk, Anne, and Shop Talk. Thee Parkside. 8 p.m. $7

MONDAY 25

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Uptown Hobo Rabbit" Art [illegible] with Bubba Bubba [illegible] 8 p.m. $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Calvin Keys 57th Street Bakery. 7 p.m. $8-$12

Rock & Pop

Get The Morning Yoshi's Oakland. 8 p.m. $19

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Mountain Jubilee Concert Series with New Edition. Mountain Winery. 7:30 p.m. $69.50-$139.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Scott Lacey & The Mailman Men Brick & Mortar Music Hall. 9 p.m. $8-$12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Le Jazz Hot Le Colonial. 7 p.m., free
Mike Stone Jazz Biscuits & Blues. 7:30 p.m. $12

Rock & Pop

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SUN 6/24 1:30 pm $8 FOLKDANCE ISRAELI FOLKDANCE with Allen King
SUN 6/24 7:00 pm $10 FUNDRAISER FOR LLS THE RECYCLISTS + special guests
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SUN 6/24 @ 7pm Melody Walker
MON 6/25 @ 9pm Kenz Craig [illegible] Bass guitar [illegible] Digital Underground
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[illegible] Bottom of the Hill. 8 p.m. $10-$12
[illegible] & Philip [illegible] with The Fain, The [illegible]. 8 p.m. $42.50-$140

TUESDAY 26

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Gurvose Dance Night with ambient, Vinnie's Bar & Grill. 7:30-11 p.m. free
Stewart Hardy Peter's Restaurant. 7:30-9 p.m. free
Tuesday Night Live Music This week: Ozake City Jug Band. Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden. 7 p.m. $5 suggested

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Eddie Pasternak and with Ross Gualco, Cafe Rouge. 6:30 p.m. free
Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring students from the Berkeley music school, Jupiter. 8 p.m. free
Junius Courtney Big Band Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $17-$25
Park St. Trio Jupiter. 8 p.m. free
Gundy Craig Trio Caffe Trieste. 7:30-9:30 p.m. free
Wed Dance dance jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley. 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Mortalism with Flood Punk, Coffin Fuel, and Trenton. Ell's Mile High Club. 9 p.m. $6
Mountain Winery [illegible] Dance featuring The B-52s with Sausage. Mountain Winery. 7:30 p.m. $45-$125
Scalps with Coventry, Sorrower, Your Enemy, Dead Pressure, and These Are No Records, 3 & Thousand Electric Boots, Oakland Metro Operahouse. 8 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Wed Candle spoken word event with comedy and R&L, Geoffrey's Locker. 7 p.m. free
Innerspace Jupiter. 8 p.m. free
Johnny Clowndale with Bulgaria and Spewtastrophe, The Wed Parlor. 8 p.m. $20-$65

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Stompy Jones Verdi Club. 8:30 p.m. $10

Blues, Folk & Country

Duncan Coutre Biscuits & Blues. 8 & 10 p.m. $15
Song Session with Vince Rouhan & Friends. Plough and Stars. 9 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Souder playing soft jazz piano. Top of the Mark. 6:30-11:30 p.m. $5-$11
Tuesday Night Jump! Stompy Jones plays retro jazz, plus a swing dance lesson, Verdi Club. 8 p.m. $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Diego's Umbrella Pub Chariot Brewery. 6:30 p.m. free
Ned [illegible] with Isefah The Ripper, Mandarina, and DJ Empty. DNA Lounge. 9 p.m. $15
The Hundred in The Hands Rickshaw Stop. 8 p.m. $10-$12
K-Haus with Fifty Candle and Elated Canyons, Brick & Mortar Music Hall. 8 p.m. $10-$12
Danny Extravaganza Mundo The Regency Ballroom. 8 p.m. $29.50-$45

WEDNESDAY 27

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bob Gove & the Dance Band Ashkenaz Roadhouse. 8:30 p.m. and
Doppler Trio Jupiter. 8 p.m. free
George Brooks & Kai Eckhardt's Jazz [illegible] Experience Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $24.50-$26.50
Jazz Theory Performance Band with Sheri Garrett 51st Street Gallery. 6-8 p.m.
Kurt Ribak Trio original jazz. Cafe a Elle Ascola. 6-9 p.m. free
Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill. 7:30 p.m. free
Moreau Wed Jazz Band Swiss Park. 7-8 p.m. free
and Dibble Dance Jazz with guest musical singers. The Alley. 8 p.m. and
Will Nichols piano music. Caesar's Bocce. 6-8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Steel Henley guest covers of Hendrix, dethco, jazz, & pop. Peter's Restaurant. 8 p.m. free
Keith Yale The Uptown. 9 p.m. and
Hammerlock with Hammercentia and Green Vinyl Sidekick. Ell's Mile High Club. 7 p.m.
KALX 90.7 FM Presents: Big Thief weekly local band showcase, The Uptown. 8:30 p.m. free
Wed Night Spoonistic Lounge. 8 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Caribbean Night with Reggae Flash and DJ Mandrik, Gorey's Locker. 7-11 p.m. and
Steel Sol Yoshi's Oakland. 8 p.m. $18

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Keith Crossan Invitational Pro Jam Biscuits & Blues. 8 & 10 p.m. $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

and Mascato and the Moods Combo Top of the Mark. 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10
[illegible] with Gowing & Michael Abraham. Amnesia. 7 p.m.
Samba with the Mesh Marcus Session, Amnesia. 9 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Appetite with Adios Amigo and Dembe-dass. Rickshaw Stop. 8 p.m. $10
The Element with Lollere Shimmer and Bay Run. DNA Lounge. 8 p.m. $12
The Mountain Goats with Gustin Wong. Swedish American Hall. 8 p.m. $25
Symbolicil Jones with Kerchner Billy and The Impersonations, Hemlock Tavern. 9 p.m. $6
The Wild Feed with the Shrouds and High Anxiety!, The Bowdens. 8 p.m. $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Sawtone Session Dance party with Billy Mage Placeamenalus, Wendell "Get Down" Rood-musical and Kevin "The Wizard" Wong, Bruno Dance Room. 9:30 p.m. $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Henley Clarke and la Banda Latin, flamenco, Mediterranean & contemporary folk. Peña Pachamama. 8 p.m. $12 ●

Submissions for music listings should be emailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is fourteen days prior to the event date.

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JUNIUS COURTNEY BIG BAND feat. DENISE PERRIER

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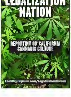
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REVOLUTION

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THU 6/21 8:00PM	THE BERKELEY BALKAN BACCHANAL MWF, FANFARE ZAMBALETA GADJITO
FRI 6/22 8:30PM	VAGABONDAGE BIRDEATSBABY VICTORIA AND THE VAUDEVILLAINS
SAT 6/23 8:30PM	THE MOORE BROTHERS FAST RATTLER LEE BOB WATSON
SUN 6/24	YOUTH OPEN MIC HOSTED BY KELLETH CHINN
THU 6/28 8:00PM	SKY I FUNKY KINGSTON RIGHTS JUNIOR TOOTS SELECTA RIDDIM PAELLA CREOLE INNER RIDDIM DJ BASTA
FRI 6/29 8:30PM	ULTRALASH VAL ESWAY & EL MIRAGE DANNY ALLEN & THE PRETTY MONSTERS
SAT 6/30 8:30PM	SEAWEED SWAY PRESENTS THE LAWLANDS THE DRIFTWOOD SINGERS CHRYSTIAN RAWK

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DJ & DANCE

EAST BAY

THURSDAY 21

Academy Night w/ [illegible] w/ Joe S. spinning hip-hop, R&B, Sandalob & Top 40. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m. $3. Blessed w/ valid ID

Club Fever w/ Sound Born Sound spinning reggae & dancehall. Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m. free

Insane Club w/ DJs Kool Bone & Club Fox. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m. free

Mascado Thursdays [illegible], 10 p.m. free

DJ Add1 spinning eclectic ear tunes, [illegible] lounge. 9 p.m. free

DJ Boone The Layover, 9 p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

DJ Trick spinning lounge. Lost Weekend Lounge, 8 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Flyes bay oddy w/ Salvatore Valentino, Vladamir Computer & Jay Sonic. The Layover, 10 p.m. free

Klub w/ resident DJ [illegible] weekly guests. The Loge, 9 p.m. $5

Boogie Boogie w/ DJs Pleuxe, Aaxi Fyre. Uncle Joe Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

OFF ReY indie pop, mash-ups, new wave. Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Salsa Night w/ DJ Eddie T plus house lessons. Yevee's Bar & Grill, 8 p.m. [illegible]

Shake, Dance & Roll spinning '40s & '50s hits. Forbidden Island, 9 p.m. free

SUPPORTgroup uptae, 9 p.m., free

Tasty ladies' night w/ DJ Mo Yaraba spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 8 p.m. $12-$15

Yoruba Dance Bombas spinning DJs Carlos [illegible] Casil. Sereh Inn Bar. 8 p.m. free

FRIDAY 22

Club 21 w/ [illegible] spinning Latin Beats. Club 21, 9 p.m. $6-$15

spinning w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spinning the hottest music in the Bay Area. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m. $5

"Deejays, Dance & Dancing" DJ Mark & special guests spinning bass heavy fun and electro. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m. free

DJ Hot Tempo The Layover, 8 p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

Escape w/ DJ Zita The Layover, 10 p.m. free

Friday Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa. La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $6

Friday Mix Jams w/ DJ Super K. Fame, 10 p.m. $5

Happy Hours w/ DJ Golden Gram spinning punk rock, indie, & new rock. free [illegible] 8:10 p.m. free

Hip-Hop Dance Ideals w/ [illegible], Club 1223, 9 p.m. $6

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Eclipse spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, banda, Spanish pop, & house. Sereh Inn Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. $8-$10

Mandala weekly in [illegible] DJ [illegible] Amoeba Music, 7:30 p.m., free

Mighty Kite DJs Rockers-T, Mr Dole, & Sandro-Tron spin reggae, Sandbox & hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m. $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after

Old-School hip-hop, free rock. Brew, 9 p.m. free

Rumpo Night w/ DJ Guapo spinning reggae, soca, salsa & R&B. Island Paradise Club, 10 p.m. before free [illegible] 11:30 p.m.

Retro-Delmas [illegible] night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m. free

The Spanish Channel w/ Roger Mas spinning hip-hop, afro-rhythms, Dabbes, guaguanco, Bossa reggae, reggaeton, & electro. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m. free

Sultry Fridays DJ Lash & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival, 9 p.m. $10

weekly w/ DJ [illegible] Prayers spinning northern soul, Motown, '60s, Bossa punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room, 10 p.m. free

Bumpoholic Fridays featuring DJ Tropic spinning Jamaican ska, samba, Bossa merengue, dancehall reggae, Spanish Bumpo-music, & more. Conga Lounge, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 23

All Productions & Mosquito DJs spinning R&B, [illegible], 10 p.m. free

The Block Yard hosted by Sean Kennedy, House Music. [illegible] p.m. free

Club Maxwell's City Jerry Glob & Soul Profam spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae & hip-hop. Maxwell's Lounge, 9 p.m. $10

Club Illuminati w/ DJ Run and Bumpo spinning hip-hop & R&B. Bloom and Bar, 9 p.m. $4 before 10 p.m.

Country Saturdays Missouri by hip-hop, & house at midnight. Club 1220, 8:30 p.m.-midnight, $5

Dancehall Saturdays w/ Bumpoby-ea spinning reggae, Sandbox & hip-hop. free Avenue, 9 p.m. free

"Deejays, Dance & Dancing" DJ Habit & special Bumpo spinning bass heavy fun free electro. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

Superior Saturday Guild w/ DJ and White Horse Inn, 9 p.m. $3

La back back Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & banda, plus hot go-go [illegible]. Club 21, 9 p.m. $6-$15

Magic 509 Bumpo DJ Bone & Bumpo-front game-ending extravaganza. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Mel People Party Red Sea Parish, 9 p.m., $10

Pop Rocket 109 Top spot pop hits from the Stooges to Michael Bhannel. Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Reggae Gold w/ DJs Daddy Pete, Mendeja, Pale Mountain & guests. New Kalaboom City, 10 p.m. $15

Samora Saturdays Bumpo hip-hop, new soul & world flavors. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 Bumpo 11 p.m., $10 after

Total Mind Fork w/ Dumbtrac & Bumpo spinning hip-hop, metal, punk, noisebox & more. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m. free

Warm-Up w/ DJ Platt Cali spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Missouri Lounge, 6-10 p.m. free

SUNDAY 24

Cubbie [illegible] Bone & Bumpo spin funk, soul, rock, house & more. Club Dana, 10 p.m. free

Club Omega Bench and Bar, 5 p.m. $8

Dedication Night w/ DJ Pendulum. Bumpo Cafe, 5 p.m. free

DJ Bendy Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m. free

"Bag of Rings" DJ Smoke-One and guests spin reggae, dancehall, punk, & lovers' rock. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $10

La Vaquerita Bench and Bar, 5 p.m. $8-$9

Major w/ [illegible] Lounge spinning soul, funk, & Afrocentric downbeat. Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Polygraphic DJs noblesse, deadhappa & MachMal host a weekly multi-genre exploration of musical movement. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Ison Sanctuary Dance Community Dance House optional. SoulSanctuaryDance, com. Ashkenaz, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., donations accepted

Uncle Fon's Ska Channel DJs spin ska, Irish & roots reggae. Red Hefty Tony Club, 2 p.m. free

MONDAY 25

Three-Day Weekend DJ Pedzaie Turner spinning hip-hop, R&B & local. Missouri Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Underground Lounge psycho '80s & psycho '70s, Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Golden Hoog Out? w/ DJ K-Tel spinning weirdness rock, soft hits, oldies, & soul. free Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

TUESDAY 26

DJ Kool Bone Money spinning rock, indie punk, new wave, & more. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

DJ Westy spinning punk. Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Escape college night featuring DJ Sandy & DJ Krazy. Club 21, 9 p.m. free

Joe Quinn Spins Vinyl Bocce Volcano, 8 p.m. free

Soul Fynk DJs Juan & Sonj spinning reggae & world. Bocce, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

WEDNESDAY 27

Suave "[illegible]", 9 p.m. free

Honey Day w/ DJs Jet & Roz. Missouri of African. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

The Jet Set w/ DJ Samora and special guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

The Jump Off: Honey Dip Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15

Missouri Sandwich w/ DJ Fire Dog, free Layover, 9 p.m. free

Dock Night featuring Lost Angry Manny spinning metal/vinyl, and more. Manhattan's Saloon, 10 p.m. free

Bones Off open mic poetry, Missouri by DJ music. 4/4 Lounge, 9:30 p.m.

Persuasion Latin cowboy night w/ host Valerio. Bench and Bar, 7 p.m., $8-$15

Bumpo Punk, indie, new wave, & Bumpo with w/ [illegible] host Owen Mandy. Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Slippery Trot Wednesdays poetry, open mic, and live TV Forner, 10 p.m., free ●

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PICK

J. Rocc and DJ Shortkut

Turntablists J. Rocc and DJ Shortkut are not above using modern technology — they're as likely to program songs on a laptop as any other DJ — but for them such things are an enhancement, not a necessity. J. Rocc is a founding member of the Beat Junkies crew and an influential producer responsible for many of the beats at the Stones Throw Records' catalog. Shortkut is capable of matching beats in almost any genre (though he specializes in hip-hop) and prevails in almost any scratch battle. Both of them have helped take the art of DJing back into the craft realm, spinning records with the swiftness and elegance of a magician. They'll often interweave elements of three or four songs at once. J. Rocc and Shortkut spin at Mighty (119 Utah St., San Francisco) on Friday, June 22, 9 p.m., $10. Mighty119.com — *Rachel Swan*

AQUARIUM AGE

URANUS/PLUTO SQUARE: PART FOUR

For the week of June 20-26 2012

By Raffee Finn

The planets align with increasing complexity this week, and as the routines of daily life mirror the sky, many of us are likely to feel overwhelmed by the attention required to handle the details of life. Finding a way through the week without getting lost requires figuring out how to defy the gravity of conventional wisdom but not lose the solid ground of common sense. This challenge is not for anyone devoted to the "tried and true." Much of what's worked before isn't working anymore (and actually hasn't worked for a while) so the old mantra of "this is the way it's always done" doesn't hold. But we've yet to create innovative viable solutions to a seemingly endless stream of emergencies — and that's a problem, especially as nervous systems struggle to stay steady. Don't be surprised if you or someone close to you just can't cope with a "normal" task. Be careful not to push yourself or those you love too hard — almost everyone is stretched to the limit and honoring those limits will help to soothe the stress.

Several configurations contribute to the complexity. The summer solstice signals the start of a new season and as the Sun enters Cancer, the focus shifts every so slightly away from the intellectual pursuits of Gemini to the intuitive concerns of Cancer. But it's not a complete change of heart — Jupiter and Venus are still in Gemini pursuing information and conversation.

Saturn retrograde in Libra since February 7 goes direct on Monday. For the next several months, as it moves through the last degrees of Libra, the Sign of relating, there will be ample opportunities to experience greater clarity about what we are hoping to give to and receive from significant others.

That clarity is strengthened when Venus, the goddess of love and beauty, goes direct on the morning of June 27. Venus Retrograde focused on relationships old and new and as her review comes to a close, you might feel the impulse to make decisions about certain interactions. Be patient. Venus "turns around" in a sextile to Uranus, the planet of surprising plot twists, making a sudden change of heart probable. Allow this last week of her retrograde and the first week of her forward motion to unfold before you make any important decisions.

The core of this week's intensity is the first exact square between Uranus and Pluto, occurring on June 24. Uranus represents the freedom fighter; it's currently in Aries, the Sign of the warrior, a position that amplifies its tendency toward aggression. Pluto represents death and rebirth; it's currently in Capricorn, the Sign of authority, a position that amplifies its tendency toward control. As they clash through the forceful friction of a square, we're in for an increasingly volatile process of transformation. Interactions between Uranus and Pluto facilitate progress toward social justice but they also stir resistance toward that evolution. How we handle the push and pull of this potent struggle is yet to be seen. Will the Occupy movement gather enough momentum to challenge a system that only serves the very few — and finally persuade it to shift? Will reactionary members of the right continue to buy enough sound bytes to turn fiction into fact? Will others on the left find a strong-enough voice to galvanize action?

As the coming weeks unfold, try to keep in mind that each of us plays a role in creating solutions to the multitude of complex situations we're currently facing. Every personal choice contributes to the collective outcome. Every heart has the power to make a difference.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES A strong center will keep you steady. Allow yourself to go deep and internal to gather your strength before you aim your external efforts far and wide.

TAURUS Powerful conversations deliver new information about old situations. The only thing you're required to do is listen carefully without jumping to conclusions.

GEMINI Despite the external tumult, you're optimistic and excited to embark on the next adventure. Seize this positive moment and immerse yourself in joy.

CANCER You can't help but wear your heart on your sleeve, so rather than pretending you don't care, put pride aside and own your feelings.

LEO Practice patience, and you'll assume the perfect position for handling unexpected developments. It's not about pushing the river — it's about allowing it to flow.

VIRGO A lot has changed — and continues to change. Adjusting to the shifts and acclimating to the new environment — physical and physical — will simply take a little time.

LIBRA Try not to confuse surrender with failure — you're not being asked to capitulate. The solution involves releasing patterns that no longer serve you or those you love.

SCORPIO There are opportunities to manifest what you most desire, but your success depends on being clear about what drives your motives and intentions.

SAGITTARIUS Stay open to the possibility of new beneficial alliances that have the power to enhance your efforts. You'll be required to follow through but that shouldn't be too hard.

CAPRICORN It's your choice and it could be a difficult decision. Frame the situation as burdensome, or recognize that you're being asked to help where help is genuinely needed.

AQUARIUS Give yourself permission to play. There are serious situations in need of your attention, and allowing yourself to relax will help you make balanced and appropriate choices.

PISCES You have a chance to fortify your internal sense of well-being by expanding your resources for self-care. Whether it's meditation, exercise or sleeping in, make the most of this opportunity. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9284 or write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com or e-mail Raffee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2012 by Raffee Finn

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LELAND STANFORD SUSMAN also known as LELAND S. SUSMAN CASE NO. RP12626480

[illegible]

Trustee Sale No. 45655CA Loan No. 1063079537 Title Order No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 04-05-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 07-05-2012 at 12:00 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 04-20-2006, Book N/A, Page N/A, Instrument 2006159076, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: JENNIFER JO FRIZZELL, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, as Trustor, JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: AT THE FALLON ST. EMERGENCY EXIT TO THE ALAMEDA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON ST., OAKLAND, CA Legal Description: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $309,779.[illegible] (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1007 41ST ST #311 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN Number: 012-1022-040-[illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. DATE: 06-08-2012 CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, as Trustee DEREK WEAR-RENEE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 800-892-6902 For Sales Information: (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, this information can be obtained from one of the following two companies: LPS Agency Sales & Posting at (714) 730-2727 or visit the Internet Web site www.lpsasap.com (Registration required to search for sale information) or Priority Posting & Publishing at (714) 573-1965 or visit the Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com (Click on the link for "Advanced Search" to search for sale information), using the Trustee Sale No. shown above. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. P952404 6/13, 6/20, 06/27/2012

SAVAGE LOVE

SEEKING BOOBS AND ORGASMS

And dumping malicious assholes.

By Dan Savage

Is it normal for my man to be so attracted to boobs that even though mine are beautiful and perfect, my boyfriend still wants to look at every other woman with a set of big boobs that he can? Aren't mine enough?

Boyfriend Ogles Other Breasts

Nope, yours aren't enough.

Yep, it's normal for a straight man to look at women's boobs—boobs on the woman he's with, boobs on women he's not with, boobs on women who don't technically exist and can't be gotten with, e.g., Veronica Lodge, Lara Croft, Nicki Minaj. Did you think checking out boobs was a symptom of leukemia or something? And while your set may be practically perfect in every way—which would make you the Mary Poppins of boobs—your man is still gonna check out other women's sets.

But your man shouldn't be a dick about it. While it's perfectly normal for a partnered straight guy to check out other women—just as it's perfectly normal for a partnered straight woman to check out other men (see you at *Magic Mike* this weekend, ladies)—your man should be discreet. He can train himself to look without looking like he's looking; he can learn to check out other women without ogling them. It's not about hiding the fact that he's looking, it's about caring enough to take your feelings into consideration, BOOB, to say nothing of the feelings of the other women he's checking out.

And if he can look without being an inconsiderate dick about it, BOOB, you should let him look without being an insecure bitch about it—don't blow up or melt down if you catch him taking a quick, subtle look at another woman's boobs. Because if he's considerate enough to be discreet, BOOB, you can be considerate enough to turn a blind eye.

I've been with my boyfriend since I was fifteen. I'm twenty now. In all the time we've been together, I've never had an orgasm. For a long time, I wanted to get a vibrator, but my boyfriend hated that idea and never wanted me to get one because he says he already feels like crap that he can't get me off. Recently, I thought, "What the hell—I want to see what happens!" So I bought one on my own. The very first time I used it, I got off in two minutes. Now I feel stupid for not buying one sooner. My question is: How do I tell him? Should I tell him? He always wanted to be the first person to give me an orgasm, and as far as he knows, I still haven't had one.

Couldn't Wait Forever

Tell your boyfriend you bought a vibrator, CWF. If the boyfriend has a sad about your purchase—and your ability to climax (congrats!)—tell him that some women require the kind of intense, focused stimulation that only a vibrator can provide in order to get off, and, as it turns out, you're one of those women. And he can still be the first person to give you an orgasm. He can give you one with a vibrator in his hand. And if he acts like an insecure bitch about it, CWF, if he blows up or melts down, well, new vibrator, newly orgasmic—maybe it's time for a new boyfriend, too?

I am a woman who has been with my male partner for one year. We live together and get along well. Our relationship is "monogamish," and we're both totally GGG. The thing is: our sex has dwindled rapidly. I have a high sex drive and would prefer to be having sex more often. It really sucks being turned down all the time. When I bring it up, he gets mad and says I'm making him feel bad. But honestly, all I'm doing is letting him know that I'm hot for him. I am not trying to make him feel bad or put pressure on him. I now ignore my sexual urges unless he initiates something. But I feel hurt when he tells me how much he masturbates. He masturbates when I'm at work and when I'm asleep. He is always masturbating. As much as I enjoy self-pleasuring and know it's good for a person to do, it seems he would rather masturbate than have sex with me. What's a gal to do?

Sadly Passive And Neglected Knitter

A gal is to DTMFA, SPANK. Couples counselors and sex-advice professionals have a term for people who rebuff their partner's sexual advances and then go out of their way to inform their partners that they're masturbating while their partners are at work, asleep beside them, etc. We call people like that assholes. Because someone who wounds his sex partner through active neglect, salts those wounds by making it clear that he's jerking it in her absence, and then makes his partner feel like she's the bad guy isn't guilty of thoughtless cruelty. He's guilty of intentional, malicious cruelty. Can't you see what your boyfriend has already done to you? He's trained you to "ignore [your] own sexual urges"—he's trained you not to initiate, not to make any demands on him at all—and now you're only sexual when he wants you to be sexual. It doesn't sound like your boyfriend wants a girlfriend, SPANK, it sounds like he wants a Fleshlight that pays half the rent. DTMFA.

CONFIDENTIAL TO PEOPLE WHO WEAR T-SHIRTS: Aydian Dowling was one of the three LGBT youths whose stories were featured in the *It Gets Better* special on MTV and LOGO earlier this year. Like many young trans men, Aydian needs "top surgery"—chest surgery that will bring his body into line with his gender identity—and this expensive surgery isn't covered by health insurance plans.

To help raise money and at the same time give something back, Aydian designed a line of T-shirts. His T-shirts—which are high quality, trans-themed, and really fuckin' cool—cost Aydian $10 to produce, and he's selling them for $20. Between the money Aydian and his wife Jendee were given as wedding gifts and the money he's raised selling his T-shirts, Aydian is just $300 from his $6,000 goal.

Aydian had originally planned to stop selling his T-shirts once he hit his goal. But the shirts have been such a hit, Aydian has decided to keep selling them to help pay for other trans men's top surgeries. You can check out Aydian's shirts at Point5ccTShirtCompany.com ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage

mail@savagelove.net

APN: 049-1082-013-00 TS No: CA07000140-12-1 TO No: 5905543 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/27/2009. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 7/2/2012 at 12:00 PM, At the Fallon St. emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA 94612, MTC FINANCIAL INC. dba TRUSTEE CORPS, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on 04/06/2009 as Instrument No. 2009104029 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by SARA WOODS AND ROBERT WOODS, WIFE AND HUSBAND AS JOINT TENANTS, as Trustor(s), in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1002 44TH STREET, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $440,337.79 (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. DATE: 5/30/2012 TRUSTEE CORPS TS No. CA07000140-12-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 Erika Aguilar, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.priorityposting.com AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 714-573-1965 TRUSTEE CORPS MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call telephone number for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address on the previous page for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case CA07000140-12-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. P953406 6/13, 06/20/2012

Trustee Sale No.: 20120015001194 Title Order No.: 120084161 FHA/VA/PMI No.: NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 07/12/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NDEX WEST, LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 07/19/2007 as Instrument No. 2007266090 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of ALAMEDA County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: CAROLYN SILAS- SAMS, A MARRIED WOMAN AND CAROLYN SILAS SAMS AS TRUSTEE OF THE REAL PROPERTY TRUST, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 07/12/2012 TIME OF SALE: 9:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: SCOTTISH RITE CENTER, 1547 LAKESIDE DRIVE OAKLAND, CA 94612. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1072 30TH ST, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94608 APN#: 005-0465-024 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $243,005.84. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 1-800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.auction.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 20120015001194. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AUCTION.COM, LLC 2 ONE MAUCHLY IRVINE, CA 92618 800-280-2832 www.auction.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 06/18/2012 P955928 6/20, 6/27, 07/04/2012

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NOTICE OF BULK SALE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a bulk sale is about to be made by K & H Sales, Inc. (the "Seller"), whose business addresses are as follows:

K & H Sales, Inc
2800 Williams Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

K & H Sales, Inc
35 Audison Way Unit 10
Watsonville, CA 95076

K & H Sales, Inc
1120 Summit Lane, Suite 5
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

The Seller has not used any other business names or business addresses within the last three years.

The sale will be made to BoALL Company (the "Buyer") whose business address is:

BoALL Company
460 S. Wolf Road
Wheeling, IL 60090

The assets to be sold are located at the above-listed addresses for the Seller and consist of inventory, cabinets, shelving units, cabinets for unassigned inventory and fixed assets, including capital equipment.

The anticipated date and place of the bulk sale are July 9, 2012 at 2800 Williams Street, San Leandro, CA 94577

This bulk sale is subject to California Commercial Code § 6106.2. The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is:

Stephanie Hong
Mayer Brown LLP 350 South Grand Avenue, 25th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071

The last date to file claims is July 6, 20

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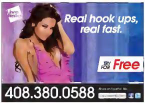
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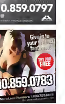
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Trustee Sale No. 12-[illegible] Loan No. [illegible] APN [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/7/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 7/12/2012, at 09:00 AM, Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA 94612, 3rd Floor Lodge/Banquet Room, Power Default Services, Inc., as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on 08/15/2006, as Instrument No. 2006308337 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, CA, executed by: SEON HWA NEAL, A MARRIED WOMAN AS HER SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY, as Trustor, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC. AS NOMINEE FOR AMERICAN BROKERS CONDUIT as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1121 40TH STREET UNIT 5306, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining unpaid balance of the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust (together with any modifications thereto). NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 or visit this Internet Web site www.auction.com using the file number assigned to this case [illegible]. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $480,[illegible] (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. DATE: 6/12/2012 POWER DEFAULT SERVICES, INC. Trustee By: Fidelity National Title Company Agent 1 [illegible] Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 916-636-0114 By: Megan Curtis Authorized Signature SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.auction.com AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 1-800-280-2832 [illegible]

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 20110019004823 Title Order No. 110432061 FHA/VA/PMI No.: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 05/11/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NDEX WEST, LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 05/19/2007 as Instrument No. 2007228984 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of ALAMEDA County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: ZENA R LONG, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 06/29/2012 TIME OF SALE: 12:30 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 871 55TH ST, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94608 APN#: [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $440,634.31. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-730-2727 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.lpsasap.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 20110019004823. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AGENCY SALES & POSTING 3210 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 200 IRVINE, CA 92602 714-730-2727 www.lpsasap.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 05/31/2012 A-4251992 06/06/2012, 06/13/2012, 06/20/2012

Bulletin Board

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